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8 July Middle East and South Asia Review

LD081338 [Editorial Report]

North African Affairs

The "excellent" relations between Algeria and Tunisia were "reconfirmed" by President Chadli Bendjedid's 7 July visit to Tunisia for talks with President Habib Bourguiba, Tunis radio reported. Bendjedid was greeted with "spontaneity, warmth, and enthusiasm" when he arrived in Monastir to hold discussions with Bourguiba in accordance with the "firm determination of the two sides to build the great Arab Maghreb on firm and strong foundations." In remarks broadcast by the radio, Bendjedid praised Bourguiba as "the one who believes in and struggles most for the Arab Maghreb," while the latter stressed that Maghreb unity means "strong cooperation, but with each country keeping its own name." The basis of bilateral relations remains unchanged, Bourguiba said, and there will be no attempt to repeat the kind of unity experiment undertaken in the Egyptian-Syrian merger of 1958-61.

The radio also broadcast a Tunisian presidential communique which said the talks between the two presidents and their accompanying delegations took place in an atmosphere of fraternity and understanding, with discussions focusing on bilateral relations and on ways to overcome problems facing the Maghreb.

Arab diplomatic sources cited by the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* linked the Algerian-Tunisian talks with a forthcoming resumption of ties between Tunisia and Libya, KUNA noted. Algeria has urged Libya to normalize relations with Tunisia as a precondition for Algerian-Libyan unity, the sources said, and a Tunisian-Libyan agreement to resume relations was reached during a recent meeting in Algiers.

Iran

Message for Soviets — USSR Council of Ministers Chairman Nikolay Ryzhkov received the Iranian ambassador in Moscow at the latter's request, TASS reported, noting that the envoy conveyed a message from Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi on bilateral relations.

Unidentified Aircraft — Iranian officials are investigating the arrival of an unidentified plane carrying armed passengers and ammunition at Zabol Airport 7 July, Tehran radio disclosed. The aircraft "probably belongs to the USSR," the radio said.

Criticism of France — Iran will not remain silent about France's planned delivery of more Super-Etendard aircraft to Iraq, Prime Minister Musavi warned in remarks reported by IRNA. He pledged that Iran will "confront" France's action. In other criticism of France, a Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Tehran radio accused the French authorities of violating the Vienna Convention in their "siege" of Iran's Paris embassy and their "attack" on the home of embassy employee Vahid Gorji.

Pakistan Attack — Pakistani police stated that gunmen from Iran were responsible for an attack on the houses of Iranian dissidents in the southwestern Pakistani town of Quetta during the night of 7-8 July, AFP noted. The attackers killed 1 refugee and wounded 11 others.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes staged a "daring raid" on Khark Island 7 July, "accurately hitting" its western platform, a military spokesman told INA.

Lebanon

Damascus Talks — Talks between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and a visiting Lebanese Islamic delegation will be followed by moves to establish a political front of all Lebanese parties opposed to President Amin al-Jumayyil, a source close to the Islamic delegation told KUNA. The Muslim leaders participating in the 8 July talks in Damascus include the acting prime minister, the defense minister, the parliament speaker, and the leaders of the Amal Movement and Progressive Socialist Party, KUNA noted.

Foreign Hostages — Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Syrians now know the names of most of the kidnappers and are preparing to intervene militarily in the southern suburb in an attempt to release the hostages. The Kuwaiti paper *Al-Anba'* stated that its source for the report on the death of Terry Waite has disclosed that this information was obtained from a radio intercept by "listening posts" which were monitoring "non-Arabic radio contacts" inside Lebanon, but possibly with "parties outside Lebanon."

'Intense' Middle East Talks To Begin in Geneva

LD081031 Kuwait KUNA in English 0941 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Geneva, July 8 (KUNA) — An intense round of diplomatic contacts on Middle East issues, involving senior personalities from Israel, Egypt, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, was due to get underway in Geneva today, diplomats here said.

Those taking part were Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and senior members of his government, including Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Israeli Deputy Premier and foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry Mid-East department head Vladimir Polyakov, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

All were already in Geneva or were expected to arrive within the next 24 hours, the diplomats noted.

Spokesmen at the various diplomatic missions have so far declined to confirm that any bilateral meetings between any of those personalities would take place.

However, President Mubarak is widely expected to see Peres, who arrives here Thursday, and also Murphy, who has just completed two days of Geneva talks with Polyakov on the Gulf crisis and ways of resolving the Arab-Israel dispute.

There also existed a possibility of Egyptian-Soviet contacts during the three-day visit of the Egyptian delegation, which starts midday today.

President Mubarak will be addressing the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTAD 7, on Friday, but that is the only official engagement on his Geneva program.

There was speculation in diplomatic circles that Shim'on Peres would secretly see Vorontsov during his stay in Geneva. It is almost certain that the Israeli official will be seeing Murphy.

AL-ITTIHAD Reports Libya, Tunisia To Restore Ties

LD080930 Kuwait KUNA in English 0833 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, July 8 (KUNA) — Libya and Tunisia agreed to restore diplomatic relations, severed since 1985, daily *'Al-Ittihad'* reported here Wednesday.

Quoting well informed Arab diplomatic sources, the paper added that the agreement was reached during a meeting held between Tunisian Premier Rachid Sfar and member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council Al-Khuwaylidi Al-Humaydi in Algiers recently.

The sources speculated that the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two countries will be announced shortly, and affirmed that Algeria asked Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, during his recent visit to that country, to normalize relations with Tunisia as a precondition to the establishment of a unity between Algeria and Libya.

The sources indicated that the short visit of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to Tunisia yesterday and his meeting with President Bourguiba comes within the framework of this issue.

London Paper Interviews PLO's Salah Khalaf
PM071141 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic
4-10 Jul 87 pp 21-24

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, by Rhasid Khishanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khishanah] The PLO is now fighting on an unprecedented record number of political fronts. There is a crisis with Syria, a crisis with Jordan, a crisis with Egypt, and a crisis with Morocco. The most serious thing about these crises is that they prevent the presence of the leadership in the confrontation states from being near its people. Have you thought about finding a way out of this situation?

[Khalaf] One of the mistakes committed by the Palestinian resistance and the PLO is perhaps the fact that they assessed their strength on the basis of their relations with the various regimes. The PLO took that course from the very beginning and it all became a matter of arithmetic. If relations with Syria, Jordan, and Egypt were good it meant that the PLO was strong, and if these relations were not good it meant that the PLO was weak. I say that the PLO was wrong to measure strength and weakness by the nature of its relations and cooperation with the regimes. My view, which may be different from the views of the brothers, is that we should base the assessment of our strength not on these relations but on the clarity of our political and organizational lines, our ties with our people in the occupied territory and areas of Palestinian concentration, and the strength of our ties with the Arab liberation movement and the Arab masses. [passage omitted]

Let us go to the gist of your question. Apart from Syria, why did these states break off relations with the PLO after the PNC session? Did the PNC resolution on Egypt really warrant the Egyptian leaders' anger? Certainly not, because the resolution was moderate and it struck a balance between principles and our true feelings for Egypt. President Husni Mubarak asks us not to interfere in Egyptian domestic affairs, but it is he who interfered in our domestic affairs before and during the PNC session. Before the PNC session he cautioned and warned us against abrogating the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

[Khishanah] Why did he do that?

[Khalaf] Because abrogation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was an embarrassment for Egyptian diplomacy since a PLO presence at an international conference or participation in any future settlement process is not the desired thing. The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement eliminates or, at best, limits Palestinian representation; its cancellation restores the PLO's standing and puts it in the forefront again. Here I want to ask: What is Egypt's position? Either it supports the Americans and hits the PLO or it adopts the frequently declared principled position and acknowledges the existence and the standing of the PLO. The Egyptian decision [to break with the PLO] was motivated by the cancellation of the Amman agreement and not the [PNC] resolution on relations with Egypt. Anyone who examines this exaggerated battle against the PLO, and particularly the media campaign, can confirm that the decision to close the PLO offices was more a bill submitted to the Americans than a reaction to the PNC resolutions. Here the following question arises again: Do I lose myself in order to gain Egypt with the concessions it is demanding? I say no, I should gain myself first.

[Khishanah] What about the crisis with Jordan?

[Khalaf] It certainly was not caused by the abrogation of the agreement because Jordan had canceled that agreement 1 year before the PNC session. King Husayn himself announced the freezing of the agreement. When we dotted the i's and crossed the t's and said that the agreement was canceled and that its cancellation was thenatural and expected thing from Jordan because without resolution 242 the agreement was unacceptable, they took their known stand after the PNC session. So let us put the agreement aside because its abrogation harms no one. Let us consider: Can the PLO accept resolution 242 or not? I believe that the Jordanian reaction was more realistic. Perhaps they were hatching something in the dark but, unlike Egypt, they were not emotional in their statements.

[Khishanah] What happened between the PLO and Morocco after the PNC session was unprecedented in bilateral relations. How do you explain this exceptionally acute dispute?

[Khalaf] I believe that King Hassan, who allowed himself to go over the head of the PLO and to receive Shim'on Peres, one of its most bitter enemies, has no right to object to the presence [at the PNC session] of an Arab brother from the Polisario, a brother with whom we are not in agreement but who did come to the PNC session. He is not Peres and his presence did not deserve all that uproar and did not warrant urging the Moroccan people to boycott any meeting attended by Palestinians. I say, however, that it is easier to break off relations with the PLO than to incite the Moroccan people to boycott the Palestinians. I say that the uproar was all fabricated and that the real goal was to harm Palestinian unity for which we have made strenuous efforts and faced all kinds of difficulties.

[Khishanah] Why, then, did the PLO openly apologize to Morocco, through Khalid al-Hasan, for what happened in Algeria?

[Khalaf] It did not apologize. All that happened was that brother Khalid al-Hasan made a statement and then the PLO issued a statement to the effect that Khalid al-Hasan was only speaking for himself. In fact, I say that Brother Abu al-Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan] made a big mistake.

[Khishanah] What about your dispute with the Syrian regime? Why is it still going on and why did the Syrian leadership not respond to the step taken by the PLO toward it, a step reflected in the PNC resolutions?

[Khalaf] The dispute with the Syrian regime is old. They have certain interests in Lebanon. These interests take priority over everything else. They believe that any reconciliation with the PLO would make the PLO a party to the conflict, a party that would compete with them and interfere with their plans. This is a mistake which Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, with his known policies, caused the Syrian regime to commit. He probably

thinks that if the Lebanese nationalists and the PLO were out of the way, the door would be open for him to impose the solutions he wants on Lebanon. However, experience has disproved this assumption. The Lebanese, Palestinians, and Syrians should cooperate in solving the problems. We could give the Syrian regime the lion's share in this cooperation but it should not forget that we are there. It has now been proved categorically that what has happened in Lebanon is a series of failures. So why this obstinacy? I believe that Lebanon is the Syrian regime's top priority. If it were to reconsider its policies in Lebanon and the region according to the importance of the various issues and give the Palestinian question the top priority it used to have, then it would definitely also reconsider all its relations with the PLO. At any rate, we are not pessimistic and we can be very patient. We hope that the Syrian brothers will amend their position, and that, certainly, will be neither at the expense of our principles nor at the expense of their principles. [passage omitted]

[Khishanah] What is your motto at this current stage?

[Khalaf] At this stage, our sole goal should be to protect the PLO because protecting it and preventing its liquidation would be a great gain. I stress the PLO protection point because protecting it means keeping our cause alive. An examination of the history of the cause from 1917 to 1987 would show that aborted Palestinian revolutions were always revived by the emergence of Palestinian representatives and were destroyed by the absence of such representatives. [passage omitted]

[Khishanah] At the organizational level, in the next phase the PLO now has the task of bringing the organizations which did not attend the recent Algiers session back to their original positions in the legitimate Palestinian institutions. However, there is a Syrian veto. So, how will national unity be completed?

[Khalaf] Frankly, the Soviet Union is playing a reconciliatory role now. For at least 2 weeks, there seems to have been no Syrian opposition to dialogue with the organizations based in Damascus. This is a new Syrian position and I believe that the coming days or weeks will witness a change in Palestinian-Syrian relations because continuation of the dispute is now intolerable at Palestinian and Syrian levels. We should be patient. Undoubtedly, there is considerable provocation by those who stand to benefit from thecontinuation of the Palestinian-Syrian dispute but we should overcome that. I believe that Palestinian-Syrian and Iraqi-Syrian relations are important in the building of intrinsic pan-Arab power. We must devote all our efforts to a revival of these relations, without which the Arab front remains vulnerable and weak and the Arab card feeble and insignificant. I tend to believe that the Syrians have recently been positively driving these organizations toward dialogue with the PLO. This is based on information, not expectation.

[Khishanah] Does this inclination have anything to do with developments in the Iraq-Iran war?

[Khalaf] I believe that although the meeting held between Presidents Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad may not have been successful, it nonetheless broke much of the ice and removed the psychological barriers. I also believe that a second meeting would contribute to the restoration of Iraqi-Syrian and Palestinian-Syrian relations or at least put us on the road to understanding and away from estrangement. That is why I am optimistic. [passage omitted]

Khalaf on Gulf War, Palestine

LD071112 Kuwait KUNA in English 0827 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Tunis, July 7 (KUNA) — Kuwait has succeeded in turning the attacks on oil tankers in the Arabian Gulf from a regional into an international question thanks to the confidence enjoyed by Kuwaiti Government and people, a senior Palestinian official said.

Central Committee member of the mainstream, Fatah, commando movement Salah Khalaf (better known as Abu Iyad) added in an interview with KUNA Tuesday that such confidence made the tankers' issue not a Kuwaiti or Gulf one but a problem that preoccupies the international public opinion.

He rejected the "sea piracy" against Kuwait and underlined that it is also rejected by any country respecting itself.

Abu Iyad affirmed that Kuwait should not be condemned for its national stand toward Iraq, adding that this small country has proved to those bargaining with people's causes that "this is the principled stand."

He expressed belief that the issues of the Kuwaiti oil tankers and the freedom of navigation in the Gulf form the key to settling the Iraq-Iran war because they alerted the international public opinion and particularly the big countries to the fact that this is a big problem resulting from continuation of that war.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union's interference with their weight in this affair proves that there is a serious trend to end that war, the Palestinian official resolved.

Abu Iyad pointed out that the Iraq-Iran war was until recently viewed as a regional conflict by Kuwait, following attacks on its tankers, raised international concern over repercussions of that conflict.

The Security Council will discuss the Gulf War and its results, he asserted but noted that focus will be given to terminating the war since it is the cause of threats to free navigation.

The Palestinian official underlined that the Soviet Union approves the reflagging of Kuwaiti ships and described as "positive" the interference of the two super powers to end the Gulf dispute.

He charged Iran of introducing the U.S. fleet into the Gulf waters and underscored that continuation of attacks on Kuwaiti tankers will increase bulk of foreign intervention.

He, meanwhile, accused U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz of pursuing a Zionist policy to win support for his ambition of being the U.S. President.

Asked on commando operations in the occupied territories Abu Iyad said that they will never be ceased. "Though of limited practical results at present, they will persist to assert that the Arab people never cancelled the military option in the Arab-Israeli conflict," he added.

"If we give up armed struggle there is no need for a PLO, but rather it will turn into a political body searching for settlements in the U.N. or the Arab League. We speak of peace but back it with armed struggle," he noted.

The Fatah official said that the outcome of two Palestinian delegations' visits to the Soviet Union and China were "very good" as regards the Palestine cause, Gulf War and the international conference on peace in the Mideast.

Both Moscow and Beijing agreed on holding such a conference on condition that it is preceded by a preparatory committee to ensure success of that conference, he elaborated.

All Arabs look forward to the convening of the Arab summit, Abu Iyad said, and expressed optimisim toward such a possiblity if the Syrian-Iraqi summit is convened.

Signs indicate that "a second meeting between Iraqi president Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will soon take place," he said and hoped a similar meeting will be held between Syria and the PLO to remove the most important inter-Arab differences.

'Arafat Receives Nicaragua's Ramirez in Algiers

JN061939 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1815 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado in Algiers yesterday. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed current developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas, as well as the issue of convening an international Middle East peace conference under UN auspices attended by all the parties concerned, including the PLO. They also discussed Palestinian-Nicaraguan relations and ways to promote them.

DFLP Denounces Reopening of Bank Branches

JN071830 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] A DFLP spokesman has denounced the Israeli authorities' decision to reopen the Cairo-Amman Bank branches in Ramallah and Hebron. The DFLP said that this Israeli decision is part of thejob distribution plan between Jordan and Israel.

Messaadia Receives Libyan, Egyptian Officials

LD071303 Algiers APS in English 1040 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Algiers, 7/7/87 (APS) — Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Political Bureau member, head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, audienced on Monday here the Libyan delegation which participated in the festivities marking the celebration of the 25th anniversary of national independence headed by Commander al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, member of the Commandment of the Libyan Revolution [title as received].

The two sides centered talks on the brotherly relations between the two countries and matters related to the Maghreb.

Besides, the head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee audienced the representatives of the Egyptian parties including Ahmad Mujahid of the Party of the Socialist Action and Mustafa Kamil Murad of the Liberal Party as well as a number of Egyptian journalists. Talks took up political questions connected with Arab world.

Libya's Al-Humaydi Praises Revolution, Departs

LD072201 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Jul (JANA) — [Revolutionary Command Council member] Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi returned last night from a visit to fraternal Algeria during which he conveyed the congratulations of the Libyan Arab people and the brother leader of the revolution to the Arab people in fraternal Algeria on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Algerian independence.

During this visit, Maj al-Humaydi took part in the great celebrations of the Algerian people to mark this historic occasion, which was the culmination of the struggle of the fathers and forefathers against the hated French colonialism.

He was seen off at Houari Boumediene airport by Brother al-Hadi Khdayr, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of the interior; the brother Algerian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah, and the secretary and members of the Libyan fraternal bureau to fraternal Algeria.

Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi made a statement to Algerian pressmen before his departure in which he highly evaluated the historic unionist work of the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria. He expressed the hope that all the Arab brothers in the Maghreb and Arab east right up to the Gulf will join this great unionist action so that the comprehensive unity of the Arab nation will be achieved from the ocean to the Gulf. This is the decisive solution to all the imperialist and colonialist challenges and problems against the dismembered Arab nation.

He said that we regard the revolution of the Algerian Arab people as our own revolution; their victory is our victory and the victory of the Arab nation as a whole, noting the Libyan Arab people's celebration of this cherished anniversary.

Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi stressed that the Algerian Arab people and the Algerian revolution ridiculed the French claim referred to by the brother leader of the revolution, who said that France was wrong and Algeria had triumphed in the end. Colonialism was wrong when it claimed that Algeria was an integral part of France. The Algerian people, through armed struggle and combat, were able to bring about victory over the colonial forces. They implemented their will to achieve change, liberation, and independence.

He said: We are certain that any nation that has the will, that has the ability to give and sacrifice, and that is willing to offer martyrs and blood can triumph over the enemy. They will not be intimidated by warplanes, fleets, atomic bombs, and aircraft carriers.

Maj al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi concluded his statement by saying that, with great satisfaction, we stand humble today on this significant occasion and salute the past of the Algerian people, their militant struggle, and the achievements of their giant revolution which arose on the Algerian Arab soil.

Austrian Interior Minister Begins Visit

AU071350 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 7 Jul 87 p 2

[Text] Interior Minister Karl Blecha, who is also the president of the Austrian-Arab Society, attended the Algerian independence celebrations in Algiers over the weekend. The Austrian delegation also included Minister of the Chancellery Heinrich Neisser.

The SPOe [Socialist Party of Austria] was also represented at the independence celebrations, which were attended by about 120 foreign delegations. The SPOe delegation was headed by Albrecht Konecny.

In Algiers, Interior Minister Blecha met with his Algerian counterpart Al-Hadi Khdayr and with Planning Minister Ali Oubouzar.

Foreign Minister Ibrahimi Leaves for Albania

LD071547 Algiers APS in English 1334 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Algiers, 07/07/87 (APS) — Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi left Algiers Tuesday to Tirana where he will pay an official visit to Albania at the invitation of his counterpart, Reiz Malile. Taleb Ibrahimi was audienced Monday by President Chadli Bendjedid on the eve of his departure to Tirana. He was seen off by the executive secretary of the Foreign Ministry and the charge d'affaires of the Albanian Embassy to Algeria.

President Mubarak Departs for Yugoslavia 7 Jul

NC070710 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0643 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jul (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak, his wife, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo for Belgrade this morning on the first leg of a European tour. During this tour, the president will deliver a speech at the UNCTAD meeting in Geneva and will confer with a number of heads of state.

The president was seen off at Cairo Airport by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the prime minister's deputies and ministers, the Swiss ambassador in Cairo, and the Yugoslav charge d'affaires in Cairo.

The president's delegation is made up of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade.

Mubarak U.S. Visit Linked to Military Agreement

PM080947 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Jun 87 p 1

[Mustafa al-Safani Report: "U.S. Conditions for Mubarak's Visit to Washington"]

[Text] The U.S. Government has made it conditional that an agreement for military cooperation, which should contain all details, including a fixed annual date for the "Bright Star" maneuvers, should be signed before President Mubarak and President Reagan meet. U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner has informed President Mubarak of this and pointed out that the summit will focus on the peace process in the Middle East, especially with regard to finding non-PLO members to represent the Palestinians.

Wisner conveyed the U.S. Administration's desire not to discuss at present the issue of the high interest rate on Egypt's military debts.

Al-Sha'b has learned that as a result of the U.S. position, it has been decided to send a high-ranking Egyptian delegation, which will include Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah, Al-Janzuri [deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation], and Dr Salah Hamid [Egyptian Central Bank Governor], to hold talks with their U.S. counterparts on points of difference raised by the U.S. Administration.

Important diplomatic sources in Cairo have told *Al-Sha'b* that, during his visit to Washington prior to the meeting between President Mubarak and President Reagan, Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah will ultimately sign a complete package covering military cooperation for a period of at least 2 years.

A senior U.S. military official paid a secret visit to Cairo during the last 3 weeks and discussed with Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah the U.S. requests regarding military cooperation. The government expressed initial agreement to these requests but linked this to a response to Egyptian requests for an increase in the annual U.S. financial aid to Egypt, as well as a reduction in the interest rate on military debts.

Observers in Cairo have interpreted the U.S. condition, which Wisner conveyed to the Egyptian Government, as constituting a concession by the Egyptian Government.

Mubarak, Mengistu, Al-Mahdi To Meet in Ethiopia

PM071423 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Jun 87 p 1

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar Report: "A Tripartite Summit Among Mubarak, Mengistu, and Al-Mahdi in Addis Ababa"]

[Text] Recent intensive consultations between Cairo, Khartoum, and Addis Ababa have resulted in an agreement to hold a tripartite summit that will include President Husni Mubarak, Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, and Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on the sidelines of the next African summit, which is to commence on 27 July in the Ethiopian capital. The tripartite summit is expected to discuss ways to eliminate the problems that obstruct the development of relations among the three countries and to define a joint strategy to protect the Red Sea coasts and keep them away from international conflicts and foreign interference.

The summit is also expected to discuss the establishment of joint projects among Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan in the fields of food security and the development of water resources in the three countries. During his meeting with the Ethiopian president last April in Cairo, President Husni Mubarak sought to end Sudanese-Ethiopian differences, open contact channels between Khartoum and Addis Ababa, and suspend Ethiopian military aid to the rebel forces under John Garang in southern Sudan, provided that Sudan in return undertakes to suspend its material and military support to the Eritrean revolutionaries. *Al-Wafd* has learned that President Husni Mubarak will pay a brief visit to Sudan after the African summit at the official invitation of Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council. President Mubarak recently met with a number of Sudanese officials in an attempt to eliminate the recent tension in Egyptian-Sudanese relations after Sudan had decided to invalidate the joint defense pact and suspend all integration projects between the two countries. At present Egyptian Ambassador to Sudan Muhammad Taqiy al-Din al-Shirbini is preparing to hold the first meeting of the Egyptian-Sudanese Higher Joint Committee, scheduled to be held in Khartoum in July under Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi. The committee will lay down the foundations of the Brotherhood Charter, which will be concluded between the two countries, and steps for implementation in the field of food security, as well as the establishment of various structures to maintain coordination and control.

3 Americans, 1 Briton Kidnapped by SPLM

EA081627 Khartoum SUNA in French 1525 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jul — Three Americans and one British official [ressortissant] working for the "Across" volunteer organization, were kidnapped on Tuesday [7 July] in southern Sudan by elements of the SPLM armed opposition group led by John Garang, a well-informed source reported today.

According to the same source, the rebels often attack innocent persons working in the relief aid sector in order to force volunteer organizations to cooperate with them, adding that the incident does not help Garang's movement to attain strategic objectives.

Victims Identified

NC081312 Paris AFP in English 1307 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, July 8 (AFP) — Four AID workers — three Americans and a Briton — were kidnapped in southern Sudan on Monday by the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA), the Interior Ministry announced here Wednesday.

A ministry spokesman identified the three Americans as Mark Nikkel, a priest, Stephen Anderson and a woman named as Miss Katty. The Briton was identified as a Mr. Sinclair.

All four worked with the American relief society, the spokesman said, adding that they were kidnapped in the area of Mondrei, near the southern provincial capital of Juba.

The SPLA had warned relief agencies that AID workers could not operate in southern Sudan without its permission.

Interior Minister To Become Deputy Prime Minister

JN061818 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, July 6 (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi issued a decree yesterday according to which Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn was nominated as deputy prime minister in addition to his post as interior minister, the daily *Al-Uzbu'* published here today reported.

The post of deputy premier was occupied by the secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party, Zayn al-Abidin al-Hindi before the desolution of the previous government of Premier al-Mahdi.

Regional Commander Scorns Rebel Victories

PM071541 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 1-7 Jul 87 p 11

[Interview with Staff Major General Abu Qurun Abdallah Abu Qurun, "official spokesman of the Sudanese Armed Forces" and commander of Bahr al-Ghazal Military Zone, by Muhammad Ahmad Hisham in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] [Hisham] The rebel forces led by Garang are talking about victories they have recently won on battlefronts in the south. What is the true situation there? And has this movement now become strong enough to achieve such victories?

[Abu Qurun] The rebel movement basically centers on the Dinka tribe, as well as other southern tribes allied with it. This tribe extends to within the area of Bahr al-Ghazal and to some parts of the Upper Nile. It is known that Garang's rebellion against the leadership of some military units — most of its members coming from this tribe — took place after the partition of the south into three provinces and the consequent weakening of the Dinka tribe's position. It is also known that in 1983 the rebel movement called itself "the Sudanese Liberation Movement" and its military organization "the Sudanese People's Liberation Army." The armed forces confronted and besieged this movement in areas adjacent to Ethiopia and in inaccessible bush areas.

[Hisham] But the rebels say that they occupy areas outside those you mentioned, so it seems as if you are hiding some facts.

[Abu Qurun] No, we are not. We confirm and admit that the rebels, with help from Ethiopia and some states supporting Garang on a sectarian basis, have been able to occupy some border areas like Jokau and Pibor. Here it must be indicated that the Armed Forces operations against the rebels usually escalate and intensify during the dry seasons, because the heavy rainfall during the fall tends to hamper such operations. The Armed Forces are now trying to prevent the rebel forces from penetrating the areas outside the zone they occupy; the political leadership is making efforts to neutralize the states which support and back the rebels. The situation in the remaining parts of the Upper Nile is good, since our forces are in complete control.

[Hisham] Once again it can be said that this might mean that there is an attempt to hide the facts, especially since Garang's forces stress that government control is confined to large cities and that they have recently been in control of the Jokau area.

[Abu Qurun] Garang's forces previously occupied two cities in Bahr al-Ghazal; namely Rumbek and Yirol. However, our Armed Forces were able to regain the former and are now working toward regaining the latter in the near future, since they have managed to secure the railroad which links Bahr al-Ghazal with the north. The forces are also in control of the supply roads in the equatorial areas.

As for the Jokau area, the High Command has issued a statement indicating that the garrison in this area was small, since the force did not exceed 200 men in addition to some officers — which made it easy for the rebel forces, with field support from Ethiopia, to control this area because most of the defenders had been martyred.

[Hisham] Some people believe that your talk of foreign involvement in the war in the south is in fact aimed at justifying the victories achieved by the rebel forces in some areas. Have you any evidence of such involvement?

[Abu Qurun] We are not talking about mysterious matters; there is a known transmitter belonging to the rebel forces which broadcasts from inside Ethiopian territory. The rebels also openly have offices in a number of European states; some support

Garang on the pretext that he is Christian and so needs help, while others provide support on the pretext that the rebel movement is socialist.

We have more than one proved with tangible evidence that Garang obtains military aid from Eastern as well as Western states and that he possesses advanced weapons, including anti-aircraft batteries and heavy artillery. Besides, the Ethiopian Armed Forces provide Garang with instructions to pinpoint targets and correct the range of his guns.

On top of all this, Garang obtains huge financial aid as well as material aid, namely clothes and food, from numerous places.

[Hisham] It is clear from statements that there is a great deal of laxity in transmitting a true picture of the Sudanese Armed Forces' role in the south. So who is responsible for this laxity?

[Abu Qarun] We admit and confirm that there is laxity and negligence on the part of government and nongovernment media services — radio and press. The Armed Forces are fighting under exceptional conditions and therefore need moral support and comprehensive national mobilization. These forces are actually fighting without popular and nationalist backing; as I have said, there is slackness and negligence on the part of the media.

When the British forces were fighting thousands of miles away from home in the Falkland Islands, the British people with all forces, organs, press, and other media channels stood behind them. I hope our people and media services will do the same thing toward our forces which are fighting to defend the land and national sovereignty against rebel partitionist forces supported by foreign quarters.

SPLA Offers Talks With Al-Mahdi on POW Exchange

EA071941 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] The official spokesman for SPLM-SPLA has disclosed to Radio SPLA that the movement is willing to negotiate an exchange of POW's with the government of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Asked how many POW's were in SPLA custody the spokesman declined to give an exact figure but assured Radio SPLA that there was already a good number of POW's with the SPLA, including Lieutenant Colonel Salim Said Muhyi al-Din, the former commander of Johan.

Commenting on how such negotiations could possibly take place in view of the refusal of the Sadiq government to have any contact with the SPLA, the spokesman said that since the issue of exchanging POW's was a purely humanitarian matter, the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] could initiate contact for this purpose. The ICRC would be ideally suited to help negotiate a swap of POW's between SPLM-SPLA and the Khartoum regime because the ICRC as a matter of tradition is acceptable to all sides in any armed conflict, the spokesman added.

The spokesman concluded that the SPLA did not have any objection to allowing the IRGC to visit the POW's presently held by the movement provided there was a positive indication that Sadiq al-Mahdi is for his part willing to negotiate exchange of POW's.

Al-Turabi Comments on Egyptian Talks

JN071839 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1748 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Jul (SUNA) — Dr Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic National Front [INF], has said that the Egyptian authorities told him they are exerting every effort to bring Sudan and Ethiopia together at the negotiating table without trying to mediate between them or impose their trusteeship on the two countries. He added that he had briefed the Egyptian Government on the INF's concept of Sudanese-Ethiopian relations and explained the ethnic problem in Ethiopia and its impact on relations between the two countries.

During a news conference held here today following his return from Egypt yesterday, Al-Turabi said that the Egyptians expressed resentment over making defense relations between Egypt and Sudan a subject of too much discussion. There is no significance in the formal abrogation of the joint defense pact between the two countries because, he said, agreements do not work by themselves but at the desire of the two governments.

He affirmed that the INF's opposition to the Camp David accords does not mean it will boycott Egypt. He denied any knowledge that Egypt has cut off aid to Sudan, as well as having said that war is the only way to solve the problem of the south.He stressed that the INF's position on this issue is clear.

Algerian President Arrives in Monastir

LD071336 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, arrived at Habib Bourguiba International Airport in Monastir at 1115 today. The esteemed guest was greeted by the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba; members of the government and the Political Bureau, led by Prime Minister Rachid Sfar; Mahmoud Messadi, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; senior officials; the governor of Monastir; regional cadres of this province and neighboring provinces; and the two countries' ambassadors.

Moncef Benmahmoud, ambassador and director general of protocol, and Messaoud Ait Chaalal, Algeria's ambassador in Tunis, went to the aircraft steps to greet Tunisia's esteemed guest. President Habib Bourguiba and President Chadli Bendjedid embraced each other at the foot of the stairs. The supreme combatant gave his honored guest a warm welcome, exchanging with him feelings of brotherhood and consideration.

His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid is accompanied by an important delegation including Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, head of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Party; Abdelhamid Brahimi, prime minister; Larbi Belkheir, director of the Presidential Office;and Al-Hadi Khdayr, minister of the interior. President Chadli Bendjedid shook hands with all those who came to greet him with a warm welcome. The cadres of the province of Monastir, its militants, and a huge crowd of citizens who had gathered outside the airport all gave an extremely warm welcome to the guest of the supreme combatant, thus reflecting the good relations existing between Tunisia and Algeria.

The supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, held talks at the presidential palace in Skanes just before noon. On behalf of Tunisia, the talks were attended by: Rachid Sfar, prime minister; Zine Labedine, minister of state in charge of the interior; Amor Chedli, minister-director of the Presidential Office and acting foreign minister; Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, director of the Socialist Destourian Party; Ismail Khalil, minister of planning and finance; Hedi Baccouche, minister of social affairs; and Mansour Skhiri, minister of equipment, housing and transport. The Algerian side was represented by Mohamed Chetif Messaadia, head of the Permament Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee; Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi; Larbi Belkheir, director of the Presidential Office; and Al-Hadi Khdayr, interior minister. The talks were also attended by the two countries' ambassadors, Mohamed Chaker and Messaoud Ait Chaalal.

The supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, hosted a luncheon banquet at the presidential palace in Skanes at noon today in honor of his esteemed guest, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. Invited to this banquet were the members of the delegation accompanying President Chadli Bendjedid, in addition to Prime Minister Rachid Sfar, Mahmoud Messadi, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and members of the government and the Political Bureau.

Bendjedid on Aims of Visit

LD071722 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Excerpts] The consolidation of the excellent relations between Tunisia and Algeria and the sincere spirit of brotherhood existing between the supreme combatant, His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, were reconfirmed today. His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid was welcomed at Monastir with spontaneity, warmth, and enthusiasm. He has come to meet with his brother, His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, to exchange views with him on the region and on those topics which preoccupy the two countries in accordance with what was stipulated by the Fraternity and Concord Treaty signed on 19 March 1983 and the firm determination of the two sides to build the great Arab Maghreb on firm and strong foundations.

His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid made the following statement at Monastir Airport:

[Begin recording] [Bendjedid] Within the framework of bilateral relations it is normal and necessary to meet in order to exchange viewpoints about various issues, starting with bilateral relations and leading to issues of our Arab region and general international matters of interest to the two countries. It is also a long time since I have met with my esteemed brother, His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba. I promised myself that on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Algeria's independence I would visit my esteemed brother so that I could exchange views with him about the various issues concerning the future of the region and all matters which preoccupy our two countries. Thus, my visit falls within this framework and, naturally, is in accordance with what we have already agreed upon in the fundamental document for cooperation and good-neighborliness, which is the only basis for the two countries' relations.

[Bourguiba, interrupting] There is no change to this basis; there is nothing like what 'Abd al-Nasir did when he took [as heard] Syria and formed the United Arab Republic. Let us cooperate, but each country should keep its own name; let us have strong cooperation, but with each country keeping its own name.

[Bendjedid] We came here for consultations about various matters. What the foreign press has reported is unfounded. There is still work within a framework in which not all of us, the countries of the Arab Maghreb, believe, proceeding from what we struggle for. [sentence as heard] For years, even before the liberating revolutions of the Arab Maghreb countries, during the liberating revolutions of the Arab Maghreb, and after the independence of these Maghreb states, we all chanted slogans about building an Arab Maghreb. Through these principles and this common faith we hope we reflect each other's ideas for the building of the Arab Maghreb, to which we all aspire. The one who believes in and struggles most for the Arab Maghreb is His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, whether before Tunisia's independence, during Tunisia's revolution, or after Tunisia's independence. He has always called for a Great Arab Maghreb. We too share with His Excellency Habib Bourguiba in this principle, and we want consultations with one another in future about our Great Arab Maghreb. Thank you. [end recording]

Bendjedid, Delegation Depart

LD071727 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Tunisian-Algerian talks continued in Monastir this afternoon with the convening of a joint working session chaired by His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and Prime Minister Rachid Sfar. The session was attended on the Tunisian side by Zine Labedine Ben Ali, Amor Chedli, Abdelaziz Ben Dhia, Ismail Khalil, Hedi Baccouche, and Mohamed Chaker.

On the Algerian side the session was attended by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Abdelhamid Brahimi, Al-Hadi Khdayr, Larbi Belkheir, and Messaoud Ait Chaalal.

His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and his accompanying delegation left Habib Bourguiba International Airport in Monastir at 1400 today. Rachid Sfar, Mahmoud Messaadi, members of the government and the Political Bureau, the director general of Protocol, and cadres of the governorate of Monastir saw off the guest of the supreme combatant.

Communique Issued

LD071805 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Presidency of the Republic communique on the 7 July visit to Tunisia by His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid]

[Text] Within the framework of the fraternal relations linking the two brotherly states, the Republic of Tunisia and the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria, and proceeding from the tradition of exchange of visits and consultations which have tirelessly been followed by the presidents of the two states, His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and the officials of the two countries, and inspired by the Fraternity and Concord Treaty signed on 19 March 1983 between Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid today visited the Republic of Tunisia at the head of a delegation composed of Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau of the Algerian FLN Party in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee; Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi; Interior Minister al-Hadi Khdayr; and Brigadier Larbi Belkheir, director of the office of the Presidency of the Algerian Republic.

The two presidents, accompanied by their delegation members, held a working meeting which took place in an atmosphere of fraternity and understanding. During the meeting the two sides studied bilateral relations in various fields and reviewed the action required to epitomize the aims agreed upon in the areas of coordination and integration.

The two delegations also reviewed problems concerning the Arab Maghreb region and discussed what is required to ovecome them in order to proceed forward toward building the Arab Maghreb on firm foundations, which guarantee stability and the continuity of progress and which are characterized by the firm establishment of bases of trust which should prevail between all sides.

The two sides affirmed the necessity to continue meetings in order to maintain the common march in accordance with what is required by the eagerness of the presidents of the two states to ensure the success of this civilized project.

KUWAIT

Official Comments on Ship Flagging, Gulf Security

PM071019 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 Jun 87 p11

[Interview with Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, undersecretary at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, by Nura Fakhuri and Fadyah al-Zughabi in Kuwait; date not given]

[Text] *[Al-Majallah]* The first question that would run through the mind of a visitor to Kuwait is: Will Kuwait become a frontline state?

[Al-Shahin] Many official visitors and others, including U.S. Senators, have come to Kuwait thinking that the war was on our doorstep. However, after staying in Kuwait for a few days they have realized that the foreign press and media services were blowing up the issue out of all proportion and painting a picture far removed from the real situation in which Kuwaitis are living. Of course, we do not underestimate the real danger which has existed for us since the war broke out. In wars, misfortune can be expected at any moment. All officials at all levels are taking such a possibility into account. On the other hand, we only deal with reality; namely, that there is complete confidence in the capability of the leaders in this region to deal rationally with the problem and eliminate any threat through the political means available. We are confident about the reality, and we will not fall captive to media which are trying to make matters appear much worse than they really are and lead us to conclusions far from reality.

[Al-Majallah] But Kuwait has requested international protection for its oil tankers, which is a major issue that must be covered by the media since it must raise questions and concern throughout the world and the region.

[Al-Shahin] I do not know why the press insists on the word "protection," as if the issue were a military operation. There is a big difference between providing security for imports and exports, whatever the commodities are, and what the media is trying to portray as a military operation by calling it "protection." The Gulf ports are open to all media services, except for the Israeli and South African media. What is new relating to this subject? And why do the media insist on portraying it as a new issue? All that we have done is not new but an extension of the situation in the Gulf; namely, that the Oil Tankers Company and Petroleum Ministry (which originally hired 66 tankers under many flags, including those of the big powers) used a number of tankers flying the flags of big powers. In fact, by such an attempt we wanted to remind the countries which claim to be responsible for the world and to be great powers that they must make sacrifices and actually shoulder their responsibilities; otherwise, why should they have the right to veto? The Oil Tankers Company and the Petroleum Ministry did what they did on a purely economic basis. We certainly did not talk about protection.

[Al-Majallah] The new element is that you talked about the shipping of oil as an economic operation, but the Americans and the Soviets considered it a military operation that required military fleets, warplanes, and missiles.

[AL-Shahin] (jestingly) The United States' problem is that the mentality of Hollywood tends to influence it sometimes. As for Soviet tankers, these have been quietly sailing in the Gulf for some time, so what has changed?

[Al-Majallah] It was said that an Iranian official went to the United States and offered the establishment of military bases there [as published].

[Al-Shahin] I read that report but have no information that would give me the authority to comment on it, refute it, or confirm it.

[Al-Majallah] It seems from the statements of U.S. officials that their positions are contradictory. So what is the U.S. position toward your request for protection of tankers?

[Al-Shahin] We are not concerned with what is exchanged between political leaderships anywhere in the world; that is their affair. What concerns us is the relationship which exists between the Kuwaiti Oil Tankers Company and similar services in the world which would agree to ship the oil according to certain arrangements. My feeling is that this operation is proceeding in a natural and calm manner; technical arrangements are taking place. As for what is happening outside these arrangements, this does not concern our officials in the oil industry or their colleagues in any other country. We feel that the operation will be carried out both naturally and quietly.

[Al-Majallah] Does this mean that the Tankers Company will fly the U.S. flag.

[Al-Shahin] Obviously when tankers are registered there they will fly the U.S. flag.

[Al-Majallah] What about the report indicating that the tankers will fly the UN flag instead of the U.S. flag?

[Al-Shahin] That is not on the cards at all and is not being raised at the United Nations. Our territorial waters, as the waters of the Kuwaiti state, will not be subject to any security arrangements, so Kuwait's sovereignty will not be harmed. As for our recent agreement, it is an extension of previous agreements. As for international waters, I believe that what applies to any other state applies to us as well.

[Al-Majallah] Will the Soviets and the Americans be present in the Gulf at the same time to participate in protecting Kuwaiti tankers?

[Al-Shahin] You still are influenced by the term "protection." Nothing has so far taken place that would harm or threaten oil tankers. I hope that this fact will inspire optimism. Undoubtedly, the big powers have certain arrangements with all parties, and it seems that they would not resort to a defensive or military decision until all other means were exhausted. I have a feeling that there are arrangements being made with all parties in the region in order to provide security for navigation by any means and for any exports and imports, not just oil in particular.

[Al-Majallah] Have you, through your contacts with the big powers, GCC states, and other states, reached a conviction that magnifying the crisis to such a size would secure a solution to it?

[Al-Shahin] We do not wish the crisis to worsen at our expense. We consider that the crisis is today passing through relaxed phases which we hope will continue.

[Al-Majallah] Reports have been published about tankers flying the Chinese flag.

[Al-Shahin] We do not want any country, great or small, to monopolize this matter. The Chinese are responsive to some extent but an agreement has not yet been reached; the process of discussing and raising ideas is taking place between them and us, but so far, we have received no answer from them as to whether or not they agree. The Chinese flag is not new to us, since our trade relations are extensive.

[Al-Majallah] How would you assess the industrial states' statement in Venice?

[Al-Shahin] I consider the statement good and clear.

[Al-Majallah] Do you believe that the Iraq-Iran war can be solved bilaterally?

[Al-Shahin] When there are sincere intentions and a strong will to solve this problem, I do not believe that anything can prevent us from finding a solution to it. Iran is a neighbor in the region, we are related historically, and any solution would be based on just and satisfactory foundations, which would be the start of a peace phase. For Iraq's part, it has advanced initiatives for humanitarian objectives which, I believe, should be responded to.

Amman Daily Interviews Shaykh Sabah on Gulf Issues

LD081048 Kuwait KUNA in English 0917 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Amman, July 8 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has declared that Kuwait will adamantly continue its role to end the destructive Iraq-Iran war in response to calls of the Islamic religion and human doctrines.

Kuwait, for this role, does not deserve continued threats, he said, pointing out that the Gulf was always peaceful and stable with all its peoples living in amity and fraternity.

Kuwait, though keen on ending this war, is more careful that its repercussions would not include other parties, the deputy premier noted in an interview with daily *Al-Haqiqah* distributed here Wednesday.

He announced, that Kuwait's step in registering a number of its oil tankers in the United States and chartering a number of Soviet tankers, reflected the country's natural keenness to safeguard its main source of income and artery of its economic life.

Shaykh Sabah affirmed that the agreement was solely commercial in nature and said that other permanent Security Council members approached for the same purpose did not respond as yet.

The Kuwaiti chief diplomat rejected reports that the operation was inviting the superpowers to the Gulf region and renewed in this respect Kuwait's absolute refusal to offer military facilities or bases to any foreign country.

Kuwait's call on the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility in solving the Iraq-Iran war is a stable stance of Kuwaiti policy toward any international conflict, he emphasized.

Kuwait has worked ever since its independence over a quarter of century to preserve freedom of its political decision and neutrality.

Instead of resorting to foreign bases, Kuwait is seeking to protect its security and stability through cooperating with sisterly and friendly world countries, establishing common basis for mutual understanding, creating an amicable atmosphere with various countries in all political, economic and cultural fields, avoiding interference in affairs of others and calling for solving disputes via peaceful means.

Shaykh Sabah said that H.H. the Amir's messages to leaders of Arab and friendly countries presented an explanation of developments in the Gulf including threats to navigation in its lanes.

The amiri envoys were met with understanding and appreciation of Kuwait's measures to safeguard its sovereignty and economic interests, he added.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister regretted the mining of Kuwaiti territorial waters off Al-Ahmadi port, saying that the route is a sea lane for commercial shipping.

"We will cooperate with sisterly and friendly countries to sweep the mines off these lanes," he added.

Kuwait is following up with concern the Security Council efforts to pass a binding resolution committing both warring Gulf parties to terminate warring and resort to negotiation to reach a just and peaceful settlement ensuring the two neighboring countries their legitimate rights and restoring security and stability to the area, Shaykh Sabah highlighted.

He noted in this respect that Iraq had accepted all regional and international peace initiatives.

The Gulf Cooperation Council countries have launched every possible effort to support the Kuwaiti drive to end the Iraqi-Iran war, Shaykh Sabah said, adding, however, that the GCC efforts to end this futile conflict did not achieve much.

He reviewed the GCC contacts with various concerned parties toward the end and emphasized that the will is still there to attain a final solution.

He, meanwhile, asserted the urgent need to convene an Arab summit conference, noting that Kuwait has called for that summit regardless of the presence of inter-Arab differences.

Kuwait backs efforts by Jordan and Saudi Arabia to clear Arab atmosphere in preparation for that summit.

Asked on the internal situaiton following recent fires in oil installations in Ahmadi, north of Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah described these incidents as "hideous criminal acts" perpetrated by "treacherous" elements.

He charged foreign parties of plotting these acts but warned that such "develish" schemes will end up in total failure.

Interior Minister Discusses Individual Security

PM071409 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 1-7 Jul 87 p 21

[Interview with Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah by unidentified correspondent in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpt] *[Al-Majallah]* Kuwait has recently become a state whose prime concern is to try to preserve security. Have new security measures been taken since the fire incident at the Al-Ahmadi storage facility last month and what measures will be taken in the future?

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait is not the only state in the world that places the preservation of security at the top of its priorities, especially recently, since security in this age has become a complementary element to life in any society; it is the fundamental pillar for development, stability, and advancement. As for new security measures, we do not take new measures after every single incident, but there is a strategy and a well-studied program for security action in order to achieve the objective of preventing crimes of all types and pursuing and arresting perpetrators after each incident.

[Al-Majallah] What was the impact on ordinary Kuwaitis of the death penalties passed on those who tampered with Kuwait's security, and why have those penalties not yet been carried out?

[Al-Sabah] In fact, the average Kuwaiti has full confidence in the impartiality of the Kuwaiti judiciary; undoubtedly any ruling passed against anyone tampering with Kuwait's security will be welcomed by the people. I believe that the various sections of the noble Kuwaiti people were satisfied with the recent rulings passed by the State Security Court.

[Al-Majallah] Has the Kuwaiti citizen's feeling of security changed during the recent period? And has the security concept become his priority?

[AL-Sabah] Undoubtedly, the incidents which Kuwait has recently witnessed have had a positive impact on the citizen's security awareness, since he has become more aware of what is going on around him and, thus, more positive, cooperative, and understanding of the security man's mission and role.

[Al-Majallah] Severe punishment can sometimes generate adverse reactions. Do you think that such reactions might again threaten Kuwait's security?

[Al-Sabah] Anyone who tries to tamper with Kuwait's security will receive the appropriate deterrent; we will not hesitate to hit very hard at any hand that tries to undermine Kuwait's stability and security. We are fully confident that our impartial judiciary and security services will put a limit on this. Our principle in this regard is known: No bargaining on Kuwait's security. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Prime Minister Arrives on Visit

LD062005 Kuwait KUNA in English 1135 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, July 6 (KUNA) — Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi arrived in Kuwait Monday from Iraq on the second leg of a Gulf tour that will also take him to the Unided Arab Emirates, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The Sudanese premier was greeted at the airport by His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallas', deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Army Chief of Staff General Mazyad al-Sanis', and senior government officials.

Al-Mahdi is accompanied by a high powered delegation which includes ministers of foreign affairs, finance and economic planning and culture.

A Kuwaiti mission of honour led by Foreign Affairs Minister Sa'ud M'hammad al-'Usaymi was formed to accompany the Sudanese guest during his stay here. [passage omitted]

Sudan's Al-Mahdi Holds Press Conference

LD071942 Kuwait KUNA in English 1908 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, July 7 (KUNA) — Sudanese Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi supported Kuwait's right to safeguard its commercial interests either by chartering Soviet oil tankers or register its tankers in the U.S.

Addressing a news conference here this evening, Al-Mahdi said that his talks with H.H. the amir and H.H. the crown prince and premier touched on bilateral relations, the situation in the Arabian region, Arab developments and the situation in Sudan.

The Sudanese premier paid tribute to Kuwait, amir, government and people for their support and understanding to Arab causes, noting that the Government and people of Sudan highly appreciate Kuwait's stands.

Al-Madhi described his current tour of a number of Gulf states which started in Baghdad as 'part of Sudan's diplomacy, noting the tour is also a response to invitations from Arab brothers to exchange views.

He added that the tour also aimed at explaining Sudan's domestic issues mainly the plight and feud in south Sudan indicating that foreign interventions, which supply the rebels with arms and money, obstructed reaching a settlement to the south problem.

Sudan opposes the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, he said, adding that his country will do its utmost to find an end to that conflict, which entered its seventh year last September.

He categorically denied that Sudan had exploited the Iraq-Iran war to solve domestic issues in his country adding that his country has no interests from the continuation of the Gulf conflict.

Al-Mahdi spoke of a positive development toward reaching an end to the Gulf war, during his last year visit to Tehran, and then he said it suffered a setback noting that his country will continue mediating between the two warring parties.

During his Gulf tour, Al-Mahdi said, he will discuss with the Gulf officials Sudan's potentials and natural resources which he said it could solve the Arab food security issue. [as received]

He said inter-Arab relations revolve around six major issues topped by the stand from the Gulf conflict, the Camp David Accord, Lebanon, the Western Sahara war, Palestinian resistance and relations between the two Yemens.

Al-Mahdi noted that his country is planning to call for an "intellectual camp" to discuss a work paper on Arab issues in an effort to reach an agreement that helps on clearing Arab atmosphere.

On his country's relations with Egypt and Libya, he said that Sudan establishes clear and natural relations with both countries.

Commenting on his country's stand from Chad, he said Sudan rejects extending military facilities for the warring parties noting that his country's principle stand is that there is no benefit from the war.

He said that Khartoum had announced peace initiatives in the African Horn indicating the possibility of establishing good relations between his country and Ethiopia.

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi-YAR Communique on Council Session

LD062102 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1156 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] Riyadh/Sanaa, 6 Jul (SPA) — At the conclusion of the meeting of the 10th session of the Saudi-North Yemeni coordinating council, which ended today in the Yemeni capital, a joint statement was released with the following text:

On the basis of the ties of amity and friendship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Yemen Arab Republic, and the instructions of the wise leaderships in the two countries stemming from their firm conviction and deep belief in the positive fruits offered by cooperation between them which will consolidate the joint hopes and aspirations of the brotherly peoples, and within a framework of sincere fraternity and complete understanding, the Saudi-Yemeni Coordinating Council under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, the chairman of the Council of Ministers in the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR), convened its 10th session in Sanaa during the period 4-6 July 1987. A spirit of mutual fraternity, amity,and trust prevailed at the talks held between the two sides.

Members of the coordinationg council who participated:

On the Saudi side:

His Royal Highness Prince Sau'd al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal, head of general intelligence.

His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy.

His Excellency Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education.

His Excellency Husayn al-Mansuri, the minister of communications.

His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information.

Major General Yusif al-Madani, director general of external military cooperation and assistance administration.

Ambassador 'Ali al-Qufaydi, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Sanaa.

Engineer Muhammad al-Musa, head of Saudi projects in the Yemen bureau.

From the Yemeni side:

Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, foreign minister and member of the permanent committee.

Brother Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, chief of General Staff and member of the permanent committee.

Brother 'Abdallah al-Kurshumi, minister of public works.

Brother 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, interior minister and member of the permanent committee.

Brother Muhammad al-Khaddam al-Wajih, minister of economy, supply and trade and member of the permanent committee.

Brother Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture and member of the permanent committee.

Brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Ja'ifi, minister of education and member of the permanent committee.

Brother Alawi Salih al-Salami, minister of finance.

Brother Ghalib (?Muthar al-Qamsh), head of the Central Organ of National Security and member of the permanent committee.

Brother Fathi Salim, secretary of the Central Planning Organ.

Brother Ghalib 'Ali Jamil, the YAR ambassador to the Kingdom.

The talks dealt with the close bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. The council expressed full satisfaction with the steps achieved to strengthen and promote fruitful cooperation between the two brotherly countries in various political, economic, information, and cultural fields.

The two sides stressed their determination to continue the effective coordination programs in order to consolidate ties of amity and fraternity between the two brotherly countries, and stressed the special features of fraternity, cooperation, solidarity, good-neighborliness, mutual respect and sincere reflection of the common belief in the unity of hopes, objectives and destiny of the relations between the two brotherly countries.

In an atmosphere of confidence and realization of common interests, bilateral meetings took place during the visit between the ministers concerned during which aspects of cooperation in the development and economic spheres were discussed. A review was made of the progress achieved in implementing the projects which are financed by the Saudi Projects Bureau in Yemen, and the projects which the Saudi Development Fund participates in financing. A review was also made of the projects which the Saudi Projects Bureau in Yemen will be implementing during the next 3 years.

The Saudi side welcomed the continuation of the activity of the Saudi Development Fund in participating in the development projects which the Third 5-Year-Plan in the YAR entails.

The two sides agreed to send a Yemeni technical group to the Saudi Development Fund in Riyadh to submit and discuss the projects which will be submitted to the fund.

The two sides also discussed the growing economic relations between the two countries and the need for encouraging more growth and to expand it whether in the spheres of joint investment or mutual trade between the two countries. To this end, the two sides agreed to set up a joint ministerial committee for economic cooperation which will assume the taking of the necessary steps for cooperation in the said fields and follow up their implementation.

The committee will have among its members representatives of the government bodies concerned and representatives of the private business sectors in both countries.

In their talks, the two sides also reviewed Arab and Islamic issues, as well as international questions. They reaffirmed their determination to cooperate and coordinate in all the spheres which preserve the security and stability of the countries of the Arabian Peninsula so that the latter can develop and increase their capabilities and realize the noble objectives and goals for a future full of prosperity based on belief in Islam and genuine belonging to Arabism.

They devoted special attention to the Palestinian issue and decided to appeal to the international community to continue to support the Arab Peace Plan and to stand by the Palestinian Arab people in their just and lawful struggle under the leadership of the PLO — the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The two sides discussed the dangerous situation resulting from the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and expressed their profound concern for the dangerous escalation of the war and what danger and threat this expansion and spread constitute to the security and stability of the entire region, as well as endangering international navigation in the Gulf.

They stressed the necessity of implementing the UN resolutions which express the stance of the international community vis-a-vis the necessity of halting this war and securing the freedom of navigation in international waters and the freedom of passage of merchant shipping to and from the ports of the Arab Gulf states.

The two sides expressed their support for the efforts of the Security Council which strives to reach a peaceful solution and end the war, a war which has brought, and is still bringing, devastation to both sides and drains the potential of the two neighboring Muslim countries.

The two sides stressed the necessity of stopping the bloodshed in order to preserve the energies of both countries for confronting the challenges which surround the Arab and Islamic nations, foremost of which is the treacherous Zionist aggression on the Islamic holy places and Arab territories.

The two sides expressed their hope that the permanent member countries of the UN Security Council would shoulder their responsibilities in this regard in light of their international responsibility for safeguarding international peace and security.

The two sides also expressed their pleasure at Iraq's constant response to the peaceful initiatives and reiterated their appeal to the Iranian Government to respond to the international efforts for ending the war in a manner which would safeguard the dignity and sovereignty of both countries.

The two sides also expressed the need to safeguard security and stability in the Red Sea region and to keep it free from international conflicts and foreign spheres of influence.

The two sides reviewed the development of conditions in Lebanon and appealed to all the Lebanese factions to cast away division, establish national accord and stand united in the face of the Zionist plot against Lebanon. They also affirmed their support to safeguard the security, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon and the liberation of its occupied lands from Israel.

On the situation in Afghanistan, the two sides expressed their support fob the Islamic summit conferences' resolutions concern-

ing the Afghan issue and their support for the UN efforts to solve it on the basis of the preservation of an independent Afghan state free from foreign interference in its internal affairs, and to find a just solution enabling the Afghan refugees to return home as soon as possible.

The two sides also reviewed international issues and their discussion proved the identity of their views in this regard.

The second deputy Saudi prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, met with His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president of the YAR, the commander in chief of its Armed Forces, and the secretary general of the General People's Congress and conveyed to him the greetings of his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He delivered to him a letter from his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan also laid the cornerstone for the expansion of the Al-Dulaymi air base in Sanaa, which is one of the fruits of military cooperation between the two countries.

He also visited the war museum and the staff academy and expressed his admiration for the great steps and achievements made by the YAR in the various fields.

He also expressed his thanks and appreciation to the YAR president, government, and people for their hospitality and welcome he and members of his delegation have received.

The two sides agreed that the forthcoming meeting of the Saudi-YAR Coordination Council be held in Riyadh in the month of June-July 1988, God willing.

Jordanian Official Delivers Message to King Fahd

LD050002 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2246 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Al-Ja'if, 7 Jul SPA — His Excellency Marwan al-Qasim, director of the Jordanian Royal Court, left here tonight after a visit to the Kingdom during which he delivered a message to the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from his brother King Husayn ibn Talal, king of Jordan. [passage omitted]

Communique No 2,734 Details Combat 6-7 Jul

JN071800 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,734 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces affirm through heroic combat activities in all areas of operation that the enemies and coveters of Iraq, advocates of cruelness, riots, and warmongers, have failed to achieve any of their evil objectives. Despite their attempts to prolong the war or repeat aggression, our enemies will only reap defeat and loss. They will also know that wise courage will remain stronger than their schemes and will triumph. The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our gigantic Air Force, which plays an honorable and large role in achieving our country's victories, smashing our enemies, and inflicting losses on their remnants, pillars of aggression, and supplies used for evil and criminal purposes, has continued its heroic activities anddealt more painful blows to the despotic Khomeyniite clique. Today our daring aircraft carried out 68 combat missions on enemy assembly points, positions, weapons, and equipment, inflicting heavy losses which the criminal Khomeyniites truly deserve.

To exercise our inalienable and legitimate right to deprive the Zionist regime, which insists on war, of its supplies, our planes pounced on two large maritime targets near the Iranian coast at 2100 and 2355 last night, dealing accurate and effective blows to both targets. After carrying out these missions, our brave hawks returned with their planes safely and victoriously to the homeland in God's care.

2. Our brave helicopter gunship knights continued their heroic attacks on the scoundrels' heads, dropping bombs of truth on their positions, weapons, and hardware, achieving new losses, giving efficient support to our ground units, and severely punishing the regime of charlatanism and black magic ruling in Iran. After carrying out 73 combat sorties, our knights returned victoriously to the homeland in God's care and protection.

3. At 0345 today [2345 GMT on 6 July] a brave force from the II Army Corps central sector carried out a violent raid on enemy positions, directing all weapons at the enemy scoundrels. After inflicting heavy losses on the aggressors, killing and wounding many of the enemy personnel, forcing many others to escape, and destroying many enemy positions and weapon emplacements, the brave force returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

4. Last night four enemy boats attempted to approach the Al-'Amiq Port platform. The brave Al-'Amiq Port force confronted the enemy boats using various weapons and intensive fire, forcing them to flee defeated.

5. Our brave troops in the I Army Corps northern sector continued their heroic operations directing concentrated artillery, mortar, and tank fire at scoundrel Khomeyniite assembly points, achieving heavy losses. Our units in the same sector attacked an enemy patrol, killing the majority of its personnel. Our forces also destroyed one vehicle and killed two enemy personnel.

6. Our brave men in the VII Army corps sector carried out heroic activities against enemy units. Our artillery units also poured intensive fire on the scoundrels' assembly points and hardware. The enemy sustained more losses in addition to those confirmed as follows: One tank burned and destroyed; seven ammunition dumps blown up; two weapon emplacements destroyed, killing their occupants; several enemy positions set on fire; and several infantry positions destroyed.

7. Our heroic formations in the III Army corps sector east of Al-Basrah inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: two scoundrels killed; two shovels [preceding word in English] destroyed and a steamroller damaged; four ammunition dumps blown up; and one machinegun and two infantry positions destroyed.

8. One machinegun emplacement was destroyed and its crew was killed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army corps sector east of Maysan.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 July 1987

'Izzat Ibrahim Sees Off Sudan's Al-Mahdi

JN061743 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jul (INA) — Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi left Baghdad at noon today after a 2-day visit to Iraq. The Sudanese prime minister was accorded an official sendoff with RCC Vice Chariman 'Izzat Ibrahim leading the farewell party. Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; ministers; and a number of Iraqi officials were also present.

Yesterday President Saddam Husayn received Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

USSR Said To Show 'New Flexibility' on Mideast

TA071030 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Jul 87 p 4

[Report by special envoy in Moscow Shlomo Shamgar]

[Text] In all my conversations with knowledgeable Soviet sources, they emphasized the new flexibility in the Soviet policy toward the Middle East, and reported that Gorbachev has done some soul-searching and come to the conclusion that his predecessors' policy has reached a dead end. Hence Gorbachev's public announcement that the absence of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union is abnormal.

In its desire to fully comprehend the problem, the Soviet Union is for the first time showing understanding for Israel's demand for secure borders. Nevertheless, I was told that Gorbachev has not abandoned any principles and that Moscow is, as always, insisting on Israel's right to exist, while at the same time also demanding the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside it. The Soviets are prepared to discuss ways of reaching a settlement "with or without 'Arafat," and are ready to take Israel's sensitivities into consideration. The Soviet Union is prepared to help the parties reach direct negotiations within an international framework without coercion.

With respect to Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, here, too, there is readiness to accommodate Israel. I was told that during the Syrian President's visit to Moscow, Gorbachev told Al-Asad that he cannot force all those who wish to immigrate to Israel to remain in the Soviet Union.

Peres Assesses Soviet Rule in Peace Conference

TA071313 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that he is now less optimistic about the participation of the Soviet Union in an international conference. However, he believes there is definitely a chance the Soviet Union may attend such a conference without the PLO, as was the case in 1973. Our Knesset correspondent Yinon Shenkar reports on the foreign minister's remarks while addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee:

[Begin recording] [Peres] Look, I do not want to create unfounded expectations about [my upcoming talks] in Geneva. I do not expect any declaration, about-face, or anything of the sort to come out of them. These are part of my regular activities aimed at upholding and promoting the peace process. I see this as a very lengthy and arduous process, but I do not intend to abandon it.

[Shenkar] Still, you had hoped the Soviets would be more active in the sense Israel would like it to be but, as you noted, opinions and assessments about Soviet involvement are split.

[Peres] Yes, indeed. I had thought — and this may yet be true — that in the course of the U.S.-Soviet dialogue both sides, and the Russians in particular, would want to muster as much goodwill as possible toward this process. Today it seems that the Russians and the Americans are about to attain a partial agreement about disarmament irrespective of other issues. [end recording]

Further on Peres Comments

TA071745 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the Russians seem to believe they can reach a partial agreement with the United States without taking account of Israel's position. Peres told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that if Israel fails to agree to an international conference, Jordan will retreat from its present position and the situation of the PLO will improve. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] If we persist in our opposition to an international conference due to domestic constraints, Peres said, in 2 or 3 years even the United States will be left without a Middle East policy. For the Russians, an international conference is not a burning issue, Peres said. They would prefer to wait until 1988 when the U.s Administration will be busy with the elections and the Soviets will have a free hand in the Middle East. By that time, the Soviets hope to achieve the unification of the PLO, a closing of ranks in the Arab world, an erosion in the influence of Jordan, and an improvement in the situation of the PLO. Peres said the Russians seem to have gained the impression that they can reach an agreement with the United States without taking account of Israel's views and Peres foresees a partial agreement at the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in October. I asked Shim'on Peres what he hopes to achieve when he meets Egypt's President Mubarak this week in Geneva.

[Peres] I don't expect any declarations, I don't forecast anything very decisive, in a way, but we think we have to maintain our contacts, compare notes, and see how to move ahead.

[Katzenell] The picture presented by Peres of the Russian position was not all negative. He said Mikhail Gorbachev had told the PLO the Soviet Union cannot continue pouring money indefinitely into an armed conflict, and Gorbachev told the Italian statemsan Gulio Andreotti that if the restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel is all that is standing between the Soviet Union and participation in an international conference, it will not be a problem. [end recording]

Favors Public Vote on Conference

TA080430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Minister Shim'on Peres fears it may be too late to obtain an Inner Cabinet decision on pursuing the peace process through an international conference; he therefore believes the people should be asked to vote on the matter. Minister Peres spoke before participants in a Georgetown University seminar.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Husayn Conference Remark

TA080834 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Jul 87 pp 1, 22

[Report by Smadar Peri and Paris-based correspondent Edwin Eytan]

[Excerpt] At their meeting in Geneva tomorrow, Egyptian President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will exchange reports on how much progress has been achieved in the preparations for the convening of the international conference.

A senior Egyptian source has presented to *Yedi'ot Aharonot* the essence of the Egyptian position against the background of the Shamir-Peres differences of opinion over the international conference: "It is a pity to waste time. We should continue to prepare the ground and bring the parties closer together, ignoring the position of Prime Minister Shamir, who is opposed to the international conference. Shamir buries ideas," is what is being said in Cairo, recalling the remarks by President Mubarak who recently said: "I hope Shim'on Peres will not lose his enthusiasm for the conference."

The Foreign Ministries in Jerusalem and Cairo expressed satisfaction yesterday with King Husayn's declaration that Jordan agrees to the framework and agenda of the international conference. "Attention should be paid to the timing of Husayn's positive declaration, 24 hours before the Mubarak-Peres meeting," a senior Israeli figure said yesterday. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Ambassador on Conference, Peres Trip

TA071730 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni says those who oppose an international conference are placing obstacles in the way of Middle East peace. Basyuni told reporter David Essing that he believes the Peres-Mubarak meeting in Geneva this Thursday will lead to progress towards an international conference.

[Begin recording] [Basyuni] For sure, any meeting is useful, especially between two leaders who are...[changes thought] They do believe that the international conference is the only available means for solving the Palestinian problem. So I do believe that this meeting will be very, very important.

[Essing] Mr Ambassador, did you say today that Egypt accepts the idea that the bilateral issues will be discussed in direct negotiations and that the plenum will only deal with the economic problems of the parties involved in the peace talks?

[Basyuni] You know, we do believe that the best idea is geographic committees: a committee for Jordanian-Palestinian delegation with Israeli delegation; another committee, Israeli and Syrian delegation committee; and the third committee, Israeli and Lebanese committee.

[Essing] But the plenum would not have the power to impose or to oppose any agreement that was worked out?

[Basyuni] For sure the superpowers can't impose a solution. The agreement must come between the two parties themselves, not to force them for any agreement or to impose. A superpower will not impose solution for the parties itself. [end recording]

U.S. Proposes Alternative Solution to Taba Issue

TA071853 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] The United States has proposed that Israel and Egypt contemplate an arrangement for a solution of the dispute over Taba outside the process of international arbitration currently under way. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari says the basic idea is to transfer sovereignty over Taba to the Egyptians, coupled with assurances about regular access to Taba by Israelis and the handover of the Sonesta Hotel to joint partnership of an Egyptian and an international body.

Our correspondent points out that Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, the head of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry Legal Department, is in favor of abandoning the ongoing arbitration process. Some Israeli experts also believe an arrangement would be better than arbitration. However, President Mubarak's position is not yet clear at this point. Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres have not yet formed a position either.

Knesset Defeats Amnesty Law; Shamir Votes in Favor

TA081035 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's vote in favor of the bill proposing an amnesty for the Jewish underground prisoners aroused great surprise, because in fact his vote went counter to the Cabinet's position, as presented by the justice minister. Minister Sharir said that if the amnesty law is passed, it will constitute a dangerous precedent that will erode presidential powers.

Knesset Member [MK] Amnon Rubinstein said there has been no precedent of a prime minister voting against the Cabinet's position.

Our Knesset correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reports that the Knesset defeated the bill by a vote of 69 to 40, with 2 abstentions. Also among the supporters of the bill from the Likud camp, in addition to the prime minister, were Ministers Corfu and Sharon. Minister Pat joined the 13 Likud members who opposed the bill. Ministers Arens, Levi, Moda'i, Nisim, and Qatzav were absent during the vote counting. [passage omitted]

MAPAM Submits No-Confidence Move

TA081214 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] MAPAM has submitted a motion of no-confidence in the Cabinet over Prime Minister Shamir's vote in favor of the amendment to the law that would have granted the Jewish underground members amnesty. MAPAM claims that in his

vote, the prime minister legitimizes and condones those who committed acts of terror only because they are Jewish. MAPAM argues that the prime minister's vote violates the rule of law, as the members of the underground had been duly sentenced to prison.

Knesset Defeats Amendments

TA081124 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Excerpts] The Knesset defeated the three bills submitted by the members of the Likud-religious parties bloc on granting the Jewish underground members who are still in jail amnesty, amending the Law of Return ["Who Is a Jew" law], and amending the Religious Conversion Act. [passage omitted]

The bill proposing that the Law of Return be amended to state that the only acceptable conversion is by Orthodox rabbis was defeated by a majority of 62 to 53, with 2 abstentions. Eight Knesset members [MK's] from the Likud bloc tipped the scale by joining the opponents of the draft law.

The amendment to the Religious Conversion Act, proposed by SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] was defeated by a vote of 60 [figure as heard] versus 56 who supported it. Tehiya MK Refa'el Eytan voted against the bill, while MK's Yiga'el Hurvitz and Eliyahu Ben-Elisar absented themselves from the hall.

Our correspondent points out that an uproar erupted in the Likud benches immediately following the vote and that Herut MK's demanded that the faction chairperson, Sara Doron, be dismissed for voting against the religious legislation [thereby violating the party decision to support the amendments].

Kahane Banned From Five Knesset Sessions

TA071426 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] By a large majority, the Knesset plenum approved a resolution to ban Me'ir Kahane from five Knesset sessions because he humiliated the Knesset speaker [when he refused to take the official oath of allegiance]. This is reported by our correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli.

Rabin Against Lavi Funds at Settlements' Expense

TA071424 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] The defense minister says his conscience will not let him ask for another $220 million for the defense budget to go ahead with production of the Lavi. According to Minister Rabin, such an allocation would clearly come at the expense of the settlements, the development areas, and industries. He said one should own up to the mistakes of the past and correctly assess one's current abilities.

Minister Rabin added that Minister Moshe Arens had tried to persuade Israeli representatives in Washington not to handle his visit to the United States, but had failed to disrupt his mission. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the defense minister was speaking at a meeting with representatives of settlements along the northern border.

Nisim Comments on Lavi Project

TA080806 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jul 87 p 2

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Moshe Nisim said yesterday that the Lavi warplane project was "a very great threat to the state budget."

Speaking before a sub-committee of the Economic Committee responsible for exports, Nisim said the government's problem was that it lacked a proper scale of priorities.

Any spending beyond the limits in the state budget would threaten the national export drive, he said. The call to allocate more funds to the Lavi project could cause such overspending, Nisim said.

The call for wage increases also threatened exports, he said. [passage omitted]

HA'ARETZ Views Rise of 'Arabists' in U.S. Policy

TA021551 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Jul 87 p 7

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "America Is Drawing Farther Away"]

[Text] Almost all the ministers have already declared that relations with the United States have never been better. But almost everyone who returns from the United States after a brief trip or a prolonged stay knows that this claim has no support in reality. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is currently in the United States on the matter of the Lavi, will shortly grasp this. Everything is all right, but there are undercurrents which are cause for more than just worry.

The most prominent sign is the rise of the pro-Arabists. Richard Murphy has wanted a confrontation with Israel for a long time. George Shultz prevented this. The secretary of state — whose appointment was feared for a moment as marking the beginning of difficult times for Israel in the State Department — tried to consolidate a system of agreements for cooperation with Jerusalem that would not be weakened after his term of office, but Israel worked behind his back. The country's three leaders melted before "our young man," 'Amiram Nir, who "turned the whole of America around" in the Iran arms affair — and the price was Shultz' coolness.

Not only Shultz. Murphy is an Arabist, and Ambassador Thomas Pickering belongs to the same school of thought. It is not in the least important that his Middle Eastern expertise did not serve him when he voiced his opinion to his government in Washington that Shamir would ultimately accept Shim'on Peres' condition for an international conference. It is also not particularly important that his latest remarks on Israeli policy in the

territories deserve a response quoted from something Menahem Begin once told a friendlier ambassador, Samuel Lewis: "Israel is not a banana republic, Mr Ambassador."

What is important is that the national unity government understands in retrospect that it was the mishandling of the Jonathan Pollard, the Iran, and the international conference affairs that let the pro-Arab genie out of the Washington bottle.

The fact that under these circumstances Pickering is interfering in Israel's internal affairs and reprimanding it in public is just the tip of the iceberg. His main purpose is to accentuate and intensify the differences of opinion with Israel. Murphy and Pickering's intention is to announce to the Arabs that the United States no longer adheres to the Israeli position as in Shultz' brilliant time.

At the moment, America appears only to be making a somewhat ingratiating appeal to Syria to renew diplomatic relations (and here Ronald Reagan has insulted his ally Margaret Thatcher, who is boycotting Damascus). In reality, the appeal seems to be an initial step in the trend being nurtured by the Arabists in the U.S. State Department to revert to the plan which had been frozen (but never abandoned) of William Rogers and Reagan himself.

The preparations are already in full swing. U.S. research institutes are preparing drafts for new unofficial initiatives. In the future we are sure to hear about a new Brookings plan. When the time comes, the plans will serve the Democratic administration which is expected to defeat Reagan's successors in the Republican Party. Murphy, Ambassador Pickering, and a group of U.S. diplomats in the Middle East are preparing the appropriate background.

Half of the Israeli Government, headed by Shamir, still has the power to check the U.S.' full willingness to discuss an international conference with the Soviets. However, through its outright recalcitrance, Israel is missing the chance of an early coordination of positions with the United States. Ultimately a split will be caused, which will become clear when Murphy confers with the Soviets on an international conference under conditions that would be less than the Israeli minimum position. Then, too, the international conference, which now seems just a formless dispute on foreign affairs, will become a heated internal argument in Israeli politics.

As expected, a split with the United States will cause Shamir to claim that such things have happened before. He will use the days of Golda Me'ir and Rabin to prove that Israel has experienced a split with the United States in the past. There is only one difference: That since then there has been a marked improvement in relations with the United States, and Shamir is going to let this just slip out of his hands.

U.S. diplomacy in 1987 is no longer alarmed at the inclusion of the Soviets in the political process. It knows that the Moscow of Mikhail Gorbachev has taken the Middle East initiative into its own hands. When Shim'on Peres expresses his disappointment over a certain regression in the Soviet position, it is a clue that perhaps Israel has already missed out on something. The Soviets now need Israel's good favor with the Americans less than it did 3 months ago.

In contrast, the Americans adopted King Husayn's advice to try direct diplomatic contacts with Damascus. However, they have reason to be encouraged by the fact that King Husayn himself was not alarmed by and did not deny his approval of an international conference. Moreover, in contrast to the Likud which has misled others, disrupted moves, blurred facts, and claimed that Peres did not really achieve anything in an agreement with the Jordanian monarch, Husayn revealed yesterday that he understood that decisions at the international conference would be made by the regional committees — which is exactly what Peres promised and exactly what the Likud refused to admit.

However, in light of a recalcitrant Israel, the Americans need additional cards to play with. Because Jerusalem refuses to revert to a prior and successful coordination of positions with the United States as part of consolidating a new reality, Washington in a dialogue with the Soviets could drag Israel into an international conference, against its will, instead of the two countries attending the opening arm-in-arm. It is a pity that this is the situation, but it is still better than completely destroying the chance of a political settlement.

Sene Discusses Situation of West Bank Camps

TA031357 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 1 Jul 87 p 9

[Interview with Brigadier General Efrayim Sene, head of the West Bank Civilian Administration, by Yo'av Limor; date and place not given]

[Text] [Limor] Brigadier General Sene, what is the current situation in the refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria in view of the events of the past few weeks?

[Sene] "It is hard to make generalizations regarding the refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria. There are 20 camps, but only 5 have occasionally made the headlines. Over the past 2 and 1/2 years, the Al-Duhayshah camp was by and large quiet, with the exception of some 'hot' periods during which incidents of stone-throwing and the hurling of Molotov cocktails focused attention on it.

"The most problematic camp is Balatah near Nabulus, but even there quiet has prevailed recently, particularly since a large number of activists in terrorist organizations, who were engaged in instigation and intimidation campaigns, have been apprehended.

"On the whole, the refugee camps' residents do not wish to get involved in riots or in stonethrowing or Molotov cocktail incidents. However, in each camp there is a 'hard core' of activists, mainly from Fatah and the PFLP, who instill fear in the population and incite youths and children under 12 to deal with terrorist activity.

"Our experience has shown that once that 'hard core' is removed from the camp, the number of incidents drops drastically and the populace, although it would not admit it, sighs with relief."

[Limor] Why is it that the refugee camps constitute the focal points of rioting and disruptions of the public order?

[Sene] "The refugee camp population constitutes approximately 10 percent of the overall population of Judaea and Samaria. It is the most backward population from the social and economic point of view. Besides, given that these refugees have been living under basically the same conditions for the past 40 years, and given their economic distress, they become the target population for the PLO terrorists to recruit and activate members in acts of violence and terrorism."

[Limor] So what is the Civilian Administration doing at the moment to improve the situation in the refugee camps?

[Sene] "One must remember that the official administrative responsibility for the refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria rests with UNRWA, which operates schools, clinics, and a food distribution facility for the needy.

"In light of the recent budget cuts it has experienced, UNRWA has limited its scope of activity in the camps and is unable to carry out any project beyond routine maintenance of its facilities and installations.

"That is why over the past 12 months the Civilian Administration has begun to increase its efforts to extend aid to the refugee camps. So far we have paved roads, taken action to improve the water and sewage systems, and built playgrounds for the children. Additionally, I have issued orders to fill 10 percent of all the available positions in the Civilian Administration (which has approximately 13,000 employees) with inhabitants of the camps.

"A thorough improvement of the infrastructure in the camps is an operation requiring sums to the tune of tens of millions of dollars. The rehabilitation of all the refugee camps will demand hundreds of millions of dollars. The Civilian Administration will therefore continue to carry out the most vital operations within the confines of our budgetary capabilities.

"There is no other body, except us and UNRWA, that deals with improving the situation in the camps. Also, one must bear in mind that the PLO wants to keep them in their current state of affairs."

[Limor] The universities have been quiet lately. Do you think that closing B'ir Zayt University for 4 months led to this?

[Sene] "There is no doubt that closing Bi'r Zayt, a decision which was made following an especially violent and grave student riot, had a deterrent effect on the other universities. To this you should also add the summer examinations, which are at their peak at the moment."

[Limor] Has the Civilian Administration canceled any planned development projects, because of the incidents and the rioting, as a type of "punitive measure"?

[Sene] "The development projects are aimed at improving the welfare of the population, so we have no desire to harm this population by canceling projects. Reaction to the terrorist elements and instigators will be carried out by the security forces according to the law — on the assumption, of course, that the majority of the population is not involved in the hostile activity. Therefore we draw a distinction between the stiff measures taken against the 'hard core' in the camps and the attitude towards the population as a whole."

Sharon Calls for 'Faits Accomplis' in West Bank

TA060959 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has called for the creation of faits accomplis in Judaea and Samaria as soon as possible in view of the danger he anticipates from Shim'on Peres' political moves. Minister Sharon said there is no need to establish complete settlements; it will be sufficient to begin work in order to create facts. The minister of industry and trade was speaking to correspondents while on a tour of the Samaria settlements and the industrial zones in the area. Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports that Minister Sharon said the government has not done all it can to prevent attacks on Jews and there are measures to suppress terrorism.

Paper Outlines Jewish Settlement in Gaza Strip

TA051405 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Jul 87 p 7

[Article by Dani Tzidqoni: "Gush Qatif Is Making Its Voice Heard"]

[Excerpts] The National Religious Party [NRP] Bureau (comprising ministers, Knesset members, secretaries, and other senior officials of this party) recently visited the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip at the invitation of the Gaza Coast Regional Council. Minister Yosef Shapira, chairman of the NRP's settlement committee, said after the tour that if the NRP fails to get the Likud to increase settlement — not only in the territories but also within the country itself — he will support early elections. (It should be pointed out that together the two parties form a majority in the government.) According to Re'uven Rosenblat, chairman of the regional council, the bureau's visit was a political one based on concern over "the dangerous results of the political moves initiated by Peres." [passage omitted]

Settlement in the area at present can be divided into three blocs. The settlements of the northern bloc (6,000 dunams) comprise Ele Sinay, a Gush Emunim communal settlement, and Nisanit, which is defined as a development settlement. A third settlement, the establishment of which has been approved but not begun, is the fishermen's village of Dugit of the Agricultural Union. The central bloc at present comprises only Nezarim of the Religious Kibbutz Movement. The establishment of another settlement is planned in this bloc (4,000 dunams).

Most of the settlement in the Strip is concentrated in the south — from Dayr al-Balah to the Egyptian border. The southern bloc (30,000 dunams) includes Kefar Daron, which is not recognized as a permanent settlement and which serves as a training camp for the moshav-type (moshavim, cooperative moshavim, and smallholder moshavim) settlement groups of Nezer Hazzani, Qatif, Gane Tal, Gadid, Gan Or, Morag, and Bedolah. All the

settlements in this densely-populated bloc belong to Hapo'el Hamizrahi [religious organization]. Only two exceptions to this exist: Bene 'Azmon of Gush Emunim, and Rafiah Yam of the Agricultural Union. In addition, the settlement of Pe'at Sade is being planned as a communal village. Some 200 families live in the Neve Deqalim regional center of the bloc, which amounts to half the number of Jewish families in the Gaza Strip.

There are currently 2,500 Jews in the Strip; 650,000 Palestinians reside there. In the year 2000 — in another 13 years — the number of Arabs in Gaza will reach 1 million. The Israeli settlement force's objective by that time is to have a population of 30,000 Jews; that is, 6,000 families. Rosenblat is afraid the target will not be reached. The current rate of growth is approximately 100 families annually.

Credit should be given to the settlement movement in the Gaza Strip for being economical and productive — as it was in the Rafah Approaches (the Yamit district). By using the most modern methods, it takes advantage of the climatic and territorial conditions for growing export produce. It also takes full advantage of the scenery and the sea to develop tourism. [passage omitted]

The Jewish settlement force is not in such a bad state. The Strip covers an area of 362,000 dunams, which is currently divided disproportionately: 2,500 Jews live on 40,000 dunams while 650,000 Arabs live on 272,000 dunams. The remainder — approximately 50,000 dunams — is state land which in the time of the Likud government was placed in the hands of the regional council. Now that the contract has expired, says Rosenblat, Shim'on Sheves (the defense minister's assistant on settlement affairs) has announced it will not be renewed. The Defense Ministry added that whenever land is needed, a specific discussion will be held on each case. Whatever the Defense Ministry's reasons, the possibility that concern for land reserves for the Gaza population was one of these reasons should not be ruled out.

If the settlers' aspiration of annexing the Strip is realized, they will have no problems. As is known, the residents of Gaza are stateless. Israeli sovereignty would provide them with a political nationality for the first time. As "Israelis" they would make up a political majority in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Cairo-Amman Bank To Open Two More Branches

TA070752 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Jul 87 p 9

[Report by the economic staff]

[Text] Cairo-Amman Bank, the only Arab bank operating in the territories, will add two more branches this month to complement the Nabulus office it opened last year, the Civil Administration said yesterday.

The new branches will be in Hebron and Ramallah and, *Reuters* reported yesterday, additional offices will be opened before the end of the year, one of them in Janin.

Jawdat Sha'sha'ah, general manager of Amman-based bank, is reportedly in the territories scouting out possible sites for the new branches.

The opening of the Nabulus office last year, after delays, was aimed at improving the local economy as well as bolstering ties between the local population and the Jordanian Government. King Husayn's government holds a 10 per cent stake in the bank but most of the shares are in the hands of Jordanian citizens.

Security Elements Say 'Terrorist' Wave at Peak

TA052331 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jul 87 p 3

[Report by Tzvi Zinger]

[Excerpt] There were three anti-Israeli terrorist attacks over the weekend: A bomb exploded on a bus at the Kefar Silver intersection; a bomb was placed in a Qalqilyah restaurant, wounding 15 people; and a terrorist attack was prevented with the killing of two terrorists who were trying to swim to Israel's shore.

The security branches assess that the wave of terrorist acts by the terrorist organizations is still at a peak, and it seems that the terrorists will try in the near future to initiate more acts against targets within and beyond the Green Line.

The primary explanation for this almost unprecedented wave of attacks lies in the results of the PNC conference which took place in Algeria a few months ago.

Security elements point out that since that conference, the number of attacks by terrorist organizations has increased. The background for this is the decisions by the conference and the competition among terrorist organizations over the number of terrorist acts carried out against Israel.

Security elements claim that the recent terrorist acts point to a shortage of arms suffered by the terrorist organizations. Several bombs recently discovered before exploding were homemade ones. The fact that extensive use has been made recently of Molotov cocktails also indicates, according to security elements, that several terrorist organizations are suffering from an arms shortage. At the same time these elements note the fact that despite this shortage, the daring of the terrorist organizations has increased.

Recently IDF weapons have been found in the possession of terrorist squads uncovered by the security branches in northern Israel. The assessment is that these arms reached the terrorist squads mainly through the black market. At the same time, the terrorists are trying to "raise" arms from IDF sources by snatching them from soldiers, as indicated by the incident about a week ago when terrorists tried to seize the personal weapons of a soldier, Ro'i Salzman, who hitched a ride with them. [passage omitted]

UNIFIL Officials Explain Shi'ite Presence in Post
TA080802 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Rosh Haniqra — UNIFIL officials said yesterday that Israeli artillery shelling near one of its positions on Monday had thwarted attempts to evacuate Shi'ite gunmen who had entered the position by force, intending to fire at the IDF from there.

The UNIFIL account came as a response to criticism from sources in the IDF's Northern Command that the peacekeeping force had failed to maintain sovereignty in the area and let terrorists use its position to attack Israeli troops.

The position, manned by 10 to 12 Nepalese soldiers, is situated near (Dayr Harmah) Mountain between Yatar and Al-Siddiqin.

Several times Monday morning small groups of armed men tried unsuccessfully, to enter the position, UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksell said.

The situation changed dramatically at 3:30 p.m. when according to Israeli accounts, terrorists were spotted on the hilltop. Assault helicopters attacked the site and heavy artillery joined the action. Seven gunmen were killed there.

There were no Israeli casualties.

Some 50 Shi'ite gunmen then ran to the UN position. There they complained that they were being prevented from fighting the occupier. But they were told they should wage their battles elsewhere.

It was not until 8:30 at night, when senior Amal leaders arrived from Tyre and established contact with the IDF liaison unit, that a cease-fire was called.

Fighting continued yesterday, [illegible]maller scale than on Monday, a well-informed source in south Lebanon said.

IDF Commander Rescinds Ban on Gaza Fishing
TA071319 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] The commander of the Southern Command has rescinded the ban on fishing off the Gaza coast. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the ban was imposed at the end of last week for reasons of security.

'Arafat Adviser Al-Hasan Arrives for Talks

JN071822 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT Jul 87

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] Hani al-Hasan, Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, arrived in Amman this morning on a visit to Jordan. This is the first by a ranking Palestinian official since the PLO Executive Committee abrogated the Amman Agreement prior to the 18th PNC session in Algeria. Informed sources said that during his visit to Jordan, the duration of which has not been determined, Hani al-Hasan will meet with several ranking Jordanian officials to approximate the views of Jordan and the PLO leadership.

[passage omitted]

Meets With Al-Rifa'i

JN080604 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i met with Yasir 'Arafat's Political Adviser Hani al-Hasan for 2 hours yesterday evening. The meeting was held secretly and nothing has been leaked about the topics discussed.

Hani al-Hasan, who arrived in Amman yesterday, is the first senior Palestinian official to come to the Jordanian capital since the PNC agreed to abrogate the Amman Agreement between Jordan and the PLO during its session in Algiers in April last year.

Husayn Comments on Waldheim, Mideast Conflict

AU071532 Vienna PROFIL in German No 27/6 Jul 87 pp 38-40

[Interview with Jordan's King Husayn by Otmar Lahodynski in Amman; date not given]

[Text] *Profil*: Your Majesty, President Waldheim's visit to the Vatican has triggered harsh criticism worldwide. You were the first head of state who invited Waldheim. Did you want to help him out of his isolation?

Husayn: We were very happy when President Waldheim accepted our invitation and we were permitted to welcome an old friend — a man of peace and moral integrity and the president of a country with which we have excellent relations of which we are very proud.

Profil: Some Jordanian newspapers, such as *The Jerusalem Star*, deplored the "malicious Zionist campaign" against Dr Waldheim. Did you talk about this with your guest?

Husayn: No, but as a citizen of the world I am shocked by this malicious, tasteless attack, no matter where it comes from.

Profil: You consider an international Middle East conference a "historic chance to establish peace for future generations in this region." Up to now, it has not been established whether the United States, Israel, or the PLO will actually take part in such a conference. Where does your optimism come from?

Husayn: I think we have arrived at an important — perhaps even the last — crossroads. The UN secretary general will invite the five permanent members of the Security Council and all conflicting parties to solve the Palestinian problem — on the basis of UN Resolution 242, which speaks about the return of the areas occupied by Israel in 1967 in exchange for peace, and Resolution 338, which stresses the necessity of negotiations between all conflicting parties.

Profil: Should these two resolutions form the preconditions for a participation?

Husayn: They should form the basis of this conference.

Profil: At the latest session of its National Council in Algiers, the PLO, however, rejected especially Resolution 242 because it deals with the Palestinian question only as a refugee problem.

Husayn: I know, but there is no other way to such a conference but via these resolutions, supplemented by all others dealing with the Palestinian problem.

Profil: An international conference without the PLO's participation is impossible for you?

Husayn: The Palestinians will not refuse to particpate in such a conference. The invitation should also go to the PLO.

Profil: Do you think that Israel's Prime Minister Shamir, who has been categorically opposed to this conference up to now, will relent?

Husayn: I do not know. What I have heard of the prime minister's statements does not encourage me, but I hope that the final word has not yet been spoken.

Profil: Israeli Middle East experts are mourning the Amman Agreement concluded between you and 'Arafat in 1985, which you suspended last year after the quarrel with 'Arafat and which has now also been canceled by the PLO. At that time, Israel missed a chance for direct negotiations with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. At an international conference with so many participants it will be much more difficult to reach concrete results.

Husayn: I do not think so. I do not see the five members of the UN Security Council sitting there during the entire conference. Direct negotiations will certainly have to be carried out.

Profil: But Israel's Foreign Minister Peres has already stressed that the international Middle East conference should not have any power to make decisions and must not impose anything on the participants.

Husayn: The conference should certainly have no power to veto progress in the negotiations. But the world's moral weight, represented by the five Security Council members (United

States, USSR, PRC, Great Britain, and France), will help us achieve results in the negotiations.

Profil: The U.S. Middle East envoy Richard Murphy and the Soviet Middle East diplomat Vladimir Polyakov will soon negotiate in Geneva on the Middle East conference. Do you think that the United States will give the Soviets more say in the Middle East?

Husayn: I have always been of the opinion that the Soviet Union — like the United States — should take over a decisive role in the peace process. Now, at a time when both superpowers want to eliminate the nuclear threat hanging over mankind, they also have to be interested in finding a solution to the Middle East problem, which also endangers world peace.

Profil: After a meeting with you last month, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter wrote that you are "deeply hurt" by the cutback in U.S. economic aid and Reagan's refusal to deliver arms to you.

Husayn: Of course, I am disappointed, but our relations with Europe have become all the better because of this. I hope that the United States will find a way to again play a role worthy of a superpower. The U.S. Administration has decided not to supply us with those weapons that we need for self-defense, although it has always been our traditional supplier. We have decided to never again ask the United States for weapons.

Profil: Will you settle your differences with PLO leader 'Arafat before a Middle East conference? When the two of you are in a joint delegation, you should settle your personal quarrel with 'Arafat ...

Husayn: Sir, there is no such quarrel between us. The PLO preferred to leave the jointly decided path and to break the agreements with us. We had to explain this situation to our Palestinian friends. We only wanted to make it easier for the Palestinians to participate in a peace conference. We Jordanians would be happy if the world were to accept an independent Palestinian delegation in order to agree on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. But this seems to meet with enormous difficulties in the United States, in Israel, and elsewhere. *Profil*: Thus, PLO leader 'Arafat, whose Al-Fatah offices here you closed last year, would be welcome again in Amman?

Husayn: All our Arab brothers are welcome here, and the PLO leadership, too, if we have something to discuss that goes beyond our former agreements.

Profil: U.S. Middle East experts have deplored the fact that since its unity congress in Algiers, the PLO has become much more radical and will hardly be willing to recognize Israel's existence, not even indirectly.

Husayn: As long as the invitations have not been issued on the basis of the UN resolutions, one cannot predict the PLO's reaction.

Profil: The PLO has clearly rejected your development plan for the West Bank. Do you want to compete with the PLO there by underpinning your claim to the occupied areas with economic aid?

Husayn: We do not want to compete with anyone. With our 5-year plan we only want to help the residents alleviate their misery after 20 years under Israeli occupation. Since 1967, we have never stopped supporting the people in the West Bank. We want to make life as easy for them as possible so that they are not forced to leave Arab territory. If the PLO also helps them, so much the better.

Profil: It is, however, obvious that in particular Arab states are rather hesitant in following your plan because they do not want to antagonize the PLO.

Husayn: Nobody is obligated to participate. We, in any case, felt it is our duty to start this aid program. It has been our intention to show these people that the world concerns itself with their problems. Otherwise, the spark of extremism and radicalism would leap over to these areas.

Profil: Some weeks ago in the Jordanian desert, you brought together two old enemies, Syria's head of state Al-Asad and Iraq's Saddam Husayn. Did anything come out of this?

Husayn: I am working very hard for the normalization of relations between these states, because it would strengthen Arab unity.

Profil: Does your peace plan contain ideas on how to solve the problem of Jerusalem? This would probably be the greatest obstacle in a Middle East conference.

Husayn: Jerusalem is much too important to become part of a political game. I am for reestablishing Arab sovereignty over part of the city. The rights of all three great monotheistic religions would have to be guaranteed. Jerusalem is too big an issue to be simply Israel's capital. It seems to me that the Almighty has not given us Jerusalem, this small city that means so much to us, to engage in endless quarrels over it. Jerusalem should become the essence of peace between Muslims, Christians, and Jews.

France's Raimond Concludes Visit, Departs 6 Jul

JN061734 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] Amman — French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond and his accompanying delegation left Amman this evening at the end of a 2-day official visit to Jordan. During the visit, the French foreign minister met with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking officials and held talks on ways to promote bilateral relations, as well as Middle East developments, the efforts underway to convene an international peace conference, and Iraq-Iran war developments.

Raimond was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, the Foreign

Ministry's Political Department head, the head of the Foreign Ministry's Europe desk, Foreign Ministry officials, the Jordanian ambassador in Paris, and the French ambassdor in Amman.

Holds News Conference

JN071420 Amman Television Service in English 1920 GMT 6 Jul 87

[News conference by French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond in Amman on 6 July -- recorded in French fading into English translation]

[Text] [Raimond] This visit, which is my first in Jordan, bears witness to the great friendship and the great trust that exist between our two countries. I would even say that it is all the more witness to this fact that as you know I am obliged to shorten my stay here. [as heard] I deeply regret this, but I nevertheless want to take this opportunity to thank His Majesty King Husayn for the opportunity he has given me and all my hosts also and for the incredible understanding they have shown in the face of these circumstances. I would like to recall first of all that the dialogue between France and Jordan is an ongoing dialogue and my visit here intervenes 5 months after the visit paid by His Majesty King Husayn to Paris. This visit was, in turn, preceded in September 1986 by the visit of the Jordanian prime minister to France and in November, quite recently, by that of Her Majesty Queen Nur, who came for the inauguration of an exhibition at the museum of the Luxembourg of some of the treasures of Jordan's rich cultural heritage.

As you know, the talks I had here started with my being received by His Majesty King Husayn. The talks we had bore mainly on the series of problems of this region, and I found it extremely instructive. I was also received for talks by the Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i as well as by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Tahir al-Masri, and my talks with Mr al-Masri were extended then to a meeting of both of the delegations. I finally met with Marshal ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces. These meetings and these talks I had were a confirmation for me that there is a great convergence in the views of our two countries on most of the great problems of today, and more specifically on the problems of the Middle East, the Iraqi-Iran conflict, and the situation in Lebanon. We have also spoken a lot, as you may imagine, of the peace problem, and more particularly of the ongoing process which aims at convening an international conference. France and Jordan's positions in this respect are very similar. I will later answer your questions in detail, but I would as of now like to confirm the interest that France as well as its European partners feel for this project. We deem it is the most realistic way to achieve peace in the Middle East.

I observed, and this is a feeling that is shared by the Jordanian authorities I spoke with, that the idea of an international conference is making progress. We are very happy with this development. No doubt all parties interested must go on thinking about the design of this conference, but as of now there seems to be a wide consensus as to the participants in this conference which will bring together all the parties that are in a position to bring an efficient contribution to dialogue and to peace. By this I mean all the parties directly concerned, among which naturally the representatives of the Palestinian people as well as the permanent members of the Security Council to whom the United Nations Charter confers specific responsibilities.

We have also in our talks mentioned the principles of this conference as well as its organizations. These are, as you well know, essential questions. I, for my part, reaffirmed that the conference, whose goal is to help negotiation, must as such have a specific role. But it should not, nevertheless, speak or act for the parties whose goal it is to instate [as heard] between themselves the indispensable dialogue.

Such were the main points touched upon during these talks. Before answering your question, I would like to add that these talks obviously also dealt with a number of bilateral matters. I was in a position to note that cooperation between our two countries is developing in a great number of fields: archeology, audiovisual media — television here broadcasts every day a 1 and 1/2 hour long program in French — cartography, high technology in agriculture. I wish also to recall on this occasion that I was in Toulouse last March alongside Her Majesty Queen Nur, who had come to symbolically receive the first Airbus A-310 acquired by Royal Jordanian Airlines. We wish to develop these relations in the economic field especially. I am personally convinced that the confident dialogue, the ties that bind our two countries and of which I have had yet more proved during my stay, will enable us to deepen in all fields our relations and our cooperation. I will now answer your questions.

[Reporter] Your country supports the convening of an international peace conference for the Middle East. Who are the parties to attend this conference and what Palestinian representation in specific should attend?

[Raimond] I was very clear about this earlier, but maybe not clear enough. We think such a conference should be limited to the five permanent members of the Security Council and to the parties directly concerned. As regards PLO, France has always stated, and this position was also that of the EEC in its 1980 Venice Declaration, that the PLO should be associated to whatever settlement was found. But as regards the modalities of the representation, it is not up to us to state what is so, anything.

[Reporter] What about the Soviet Union [words indistinct]?

[Raimond] They are both permanent member states...

[Reporter, interrupting] The role; I mean the role at this conference.

[Raimond] As regards the role of these permanent member states, permanent members of the Security Council will have, I would like to state the following: Before any previous designs of the international conference that have been put forward, the presence of the United States and of the USSR had been mentioned, and the presence of the USSR was a problem for a number of countries. What is new now since the proposition was reforwarded in July 1986 is that the five permanent member states of the Security Council would take part in the conference. Of

course, it would then have to be stated in greater detail what exactly these five member states would have to do, but that is not up to me to say.

[Reporter] You said in an interview yesterday, I believe, that efforts to normalize your country's relations with Iran are now suspended. Does that mean that you are not negotiating with them to end the dispute over the Iranian official in Paris, and are these negotiations also dealing with the problem of French hostages being held in Lebanon?

[Raimond] I am happy you asked me this question because that is not exactly what I said. I said, first of all, that the normalization process which was started in March-April 1986 by the government of Mr Jacques Chirac, normalization with Iran did not seek to normalize these relations at all costs and limits to this normalization was stated at the very beginning. These limits are the following and we have not wavered from this position in the least. They regard our policy in the Middle East, which we do not intend to change, our policy as regards Iraq, which we do not intend to change, and the fact that we do not intend to sell arms to Iran. I then said that in the present situation, that is the fact that in Paris the Iranian Embassy is for the moment controlled by police as far as exits and entrances of people are concerned and the fact that in Iran the French Embassy which had been totally blocked by Iranian authorities till Saturday evening now is in a situation quite comparable to that of the Iranian Embassy in Paris. In these circumstances, discussions on normalizations between state representatives of both countries could obviously not go on.

To finish with the present situation, the problem today between France and Iran is extremely simple to understand. There is a member of the Iranian Embassy, Mr Gorji, who was officially an interpreter for the Iranian Embassy in Paris, who was summoned by the prosecuting judge in order to testify in the framework of an inquiry on terrorist activities in France. He did not answer the summons. He actually even disappeared. He later reappeared and the police controls around the Iranian Embassy in Paris now have a very simple goal: to make sure he does not disappear again. The problem is simple. This person does not have diplomatic status, and therefore, has to appear before the judge. Police control will be lifted around the embassy and should be lifted around the French Embassy in Tehran as soon as he does answer the summons from the prosecuting judge. But, for the moment, that has not happened yet, and there is nothing to negotiate.

[Reporter] As regards the Jordanian plan to develop the occupied territories, why does France want to go on, using its usual channels as far as granting aid to the territories is concerned?

[Raimond] As regards aid to the occupied territories, we have increased our aid in very considerable proportions. We have even sent an expert to speed up the implementation of what projects will be undertaken. We have defined a number of projects. In other words, we have thus responded to the very legitimate request of the Jordanian Government as regards the economic development of occupied territories. But we have always thought that economic aid should not be used instead of political settlement as regards these questions. And furthermore, we are accustomed to dealing with these matters through our consulate in Jerusalem and through a number of nongovernmental organizations. And I think that sums up the reasons why we have adopted the stands we have.

[Reporter] What is your reaction to the Soviet proposal that all Foreign warships be withdrawn from the Gulf?

[Raimond] This proposition is extremely new and I haven't had time yet to examine the actual text of the proposal. And as you note, it is usually better to read the actual text. But my initial reaction is first of all that when dealing with matters concerning shipping in the Gulf, we cannot separate this matter from the Iraqi- Iranian war. I feel there is an absolutely indissociable link between the two.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, do you see any prospects of convening the proposed international conference? Maybe perhaps later this year in light of your talks with the king and Mr Peres?

[Raimond] I found that the Jordanian position as regards support to the international conference very similar to that of France. We, both countries, wish this conference to be convened as soon as possible. But I think that in my previous answers I somewhat answered this question because when I spoke of the delays that had intervened and this albeit in a period of great support for the idea of a conference. I cannot predict when this conference will be held, and assuming Israel should decide to favor the convening of such a conference, there would still be other problems to be solved regarding membership, for instance. This is a difficult and time-consuming task, but I think we have to support the principle of the conference.

[Reporter] Maybe an effort in the United Nations to end arms sales to either Iran or Iraq, knowing that France is a seller to Iraq, what would France do in the United Nations?

[Raimond] I have already spoken of what is going on in the Security Council. What is happening there right now is extremely interesting. All five permanent members have agreed on a resolution encouraging mediation efforts by the secretary general, and should this resolution be adopted by all members of the Security Council, both belligerent states would be called upon to cease hostilities, and then these states who would not comply with this resolution could eventually be the object of a second resolution stipulating sanctions against the said state. But we have not reached this stage yet, and we would have to see then what sort of sanctions could be contemplated. I don't think there is any need at this point to go further into this matter. I thank you.

Prince Hasan Returns From Britain 6 Jul

JN061948 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Highness Princess Tharwat returned to the homeland this evening after a private visit to the United Kingdom. During the visit, his highness

met with a number of senior British officials. He also gave a lecture at the Royal College for Defense Studies in London. Returning with him was His Highness Ghazi ibn Muhammad.

His highness the crown prince was received at the Amman airport by the Royal Hashemite court chief, the court minister, his highness the chief chamberlain, and Al-Sharif Jamil ibn Nasir. He was also received by the Amman mayor, the chief qadi, the secretary general of the Royal Court, the head of the royal household, the Amman governor, the British ambassador in Amman, and a number of civilian and military officials.

Foreign Minister Leaves For London 7 Jul
JN071154 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman for London at noon to head the Arab seven-member committee charged withfollowing up the Iran-Iraq war. The delegation is scheduled to meet with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe. The delegation comprises representatives of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, and Iraq.

Najibullah News Conference Held 28 Jun
LD040830 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 29 Jun 87

[News conference given by Najibullah, PDPA Central Committee general secretary, at the Foreign Ministry's Storay Palace in Kabul on 28 June attended by journalists participating in the Nonaligned Journalists Conference; questions read by unidentified official — recorded]

[Text] [Najib] Dear friends, allow me to refer to you as [words indistinct]. All members of the DRA leadership have taken great interest in the work of your conference. [passage indistinct] Let us begin answering your questions.

[Question] Question by [name indistinct] African magazine: How do you assess the role of the Nonaligned Journalists Conference in Kabul in maintaining peace in Afghanistan as part of the common cause of struggle for peace and security for everyone?

[Najib] First of all, I want to express thanks to the conference participants for accepting our invitation to come to Kabul to take part in the conference. We express gratitude for your support for the policy of national reconciliation, which is bringing about true prospects for the maintenance of peace and the establishment of tranquillity in the Afghan land.

I believe that when you meet our people up close you will note the efforts being made by our state to eliminate social and economic backwardness and to achieve a practical realization of the national reconciliation policy in Afghanistan and that you will provide these facts to the international community. We hope that your visit to Kabul will accomplish its part in the noble struggle of peace for all and the mobilization of the [word indistinct] of all peoples of our planet toward the salvation of humanity from the danger of nuclear war and for the solution of regional conflicts,fanned by imperialism, through peaceful means. Thank you.

[Question] Question by representative from Nigeria: What revolutionary gains have been made in Afghanistan? How much of the Afghan soil is under enemy control?

[Najib] We are not geography teachers. We are politicians and therefore we will concentrate primarily on the political aspect of your question. You might have heard the repeated claims of opposition leaders that they are in control of 75-80 percent of Afghanistan. However, you know that three-quarters of Afghan land is mountainous. If you add deserts and uninhabited areas to this and then count, you will see that [words indistinct] controls 75-80 percent of the Afghan soil. Let us suppose it to be so, then the claims of the opposition leaders that Afghanistan has been completely occupied by the Soviet Union [words indistinct].

Let us agree that from a political viewpoint there is a strong contradiction between these two theories. At present the sovereign people control more than 8,600 villages, 142 districts, 68 subdistricts, and 45 cities, as well as all provincial centers. From the perspective of land, this constitutes all of Afghanistan's (?inhabited) areas. The enemy as a whole exists in the mountains, the deserts, and uninhabited areas. Thank you.

[Question] Question by representative from Finland: Are you planning to extend the cease-fire period?

[Najib] The National Reconciliation Commission made such a proposal at its second plenary meeting yesterday. After considering all aspects of the matter, we will announce our final decision on 14 July. Thank you.

[Question] Another question by the representative from Finland: You have stated that 60,000 refugees have returned; that is, 10,000people per month. Have there been any further developments? How many people returned during the last month?

[Najib] Last month more people returned than ever before -- some 20,000 people. The total figure of those who have returned is now 62,000. This figure would have been far higher if obstacles by the Pakistani and Iranian Governments had been eliminated. You know very well that these 62,000 refugees returned from behind barbed-wire camps in Pakistan and Iran. The refugees, without waiting for a solution to their question being resolved at the Geneva talks, are returning to their homeland. Therefore, those who have returned to the homeland are counted as true patriots and heroes. Thank you.

[Question] Question by representative from Tanzania: The PDPA is moving along the path of reconciliation with unceasing efforts, but the war continues. First, I would like to hear your views on the general situation in the country, and then on the probable policy of the party in the event that some elements reject the invitation to reconciliation?

[Najib] It has been more than 5 months since the start of the national reconciliation session. Much work has been done, but there is a lot more before us. However, we know that we are following the right path because the policy of national reconciliation in Afghanistan is reaching the hearts and minds of millions of Afghan citizens, including some who are still taking the opposition's side.Nevertheless, there is an uncompromising section which is continuing combat operations with even more intensity than before the announcement of the national reconciliation policy by the PDPA and the revolutionary government; that is, the January plenum of the PDPA Central Committee. But simple logic — I do not mean military logic — tells us that the intensification of military operations by a section of the opposition is due to its fear of national reconciliation. With all their power, they try to prove their loyalty to their overseas masters.

National reconciliation is not a unilateral measure. It is not a one-way street. Ending the war and concentrating the people's efforts on resolving matters of initiatives now depends on the opposition. Unfortunately, U.S. imperialism, its NATO partners, and world reaction are standing behind this section favoring nonreconciliation. If the opposition rejects reconciliation, I would point out that just as a family defends the sanctity of its home, we will defend our homeland and keep bandits from our houses.

[Question] Question by Polish journalist: Does a timetable for the withdrawl of Soviet troops exist?

[Najib] The question of withdrawing the limited Soviet military units is a bilateral question and it has been studied; agreement

exists on its complete form. The withdrawal timetable cannot be put forward until sound thinking is forthcoming from those parties concerned with the situation around Afghanistan. We have repeatedly stated that the fundamental question is the end to interference from outside and reliable guarantees to its non-repetition. If this is resolved, then these units will withdraw in accordance with a timetable that is practical from political, security, and logistical perspectives.

During the third phase of the seventh round of the Geneva talks, the Afghan side put forward a plan which provided logical and practical bases for the return of these units. As a result, the gap in the differences between the two sides was reduced. Our delegation travels to Geneva with a flexible position.

[Question] Question by a Yemeni journalist: In your opinion, if the revolutionary government succeeds in advancing its policy of national reconciliation, will foreign interference end?

[Najib] You have correctly identified the link between the success of the national reconciliation policy and interference from abroad. At present, two realities exist. One is the continuation of the policy of national reconciliation. The PDPA and the Afghan revolutionary power are fully determined not to retreat from the policy of national reconciliation. This determination was displayed once again at the June plenum of the PDPA Central Committee. The other question is interference from abroad. Let us reveal the source from which this interference emanates: It is the U.S. Administration, its NATO partners, and regional reaction. We go to Geneva in order to stop interference from abroad. I believe that sound thinking will be victorious at these talks and that an agreement will be signed; as a result, interference from abroad will cease. The national reconciliation process will then be strengthenedand advance with speed.

This question could also be asked in another way: Can the successful realization of the policy of national reconciliation result in the cessation and reduction of interference from abroad? I believe that it can. If eventually the opposition leaders — in accordance with the tenets of the Koran — decide to cease bloodshed and fratricide, then this will pose problems to the interventionists. You know that interference from abroad has been continued for many years by the fanatic section of the counterrevolution and those counterrevolutionary leaders whose hands are stained with the blood of our people and who are the enemies of the people.

[Question] Question by an Indian journalist: You said in your speech to the conference that national reconciliation has been transformed from a slogan into reality and you warned against haste, saying that unripe fruit should not be picked from the reconciliation tree. Does this mean that although the ideas of national reconciliation have penetrated into the people's minds, response to it is still minute? According to UN statistics, Afghan refugees in Pakistan and in Iran number 4 million. The returnees number 60,000 and those armed men who have come over to the side of the government number 25,000. This indicates that there is no broad enthusiasm to come over to the side of national reconciliation. What is the reason for this?

[Najib] The policy of national reconcilaition takes various shapes. It is gaining a nationwide character and the people of Afghanistan are expressing support for it. I repeat: the people of Afghanistan. However, it must be said that the irreconcilable portion of the opposition -- that is to say, those rejecting the reconciliation -- are distancing themselves and their ranks further from the people. The main reason for the uncompromising section following this course is their servile nature and their pursuit of U.S. policy.

[Question] Question by (Gabagil Manuel), Angolan journalist: Can you speak about the growth in the national reconciliation process? How do you assess intervention by the Iranian Government in the internal affairs of the DRA and the creation of barriers by this governmentto the return of Afghan refugees?

[Najib] We have spoken a great deal about national reconciliation, and it is quite clear that this policy is increasingly capturing the hearts and minds of our people. Intervention by Iran is continuing, regrettably, and the hostile behavior of the Iranian authorities against our country, despite all the flexibility shown by us, adds to the difficulties. Its hostile behavior has not been reduced. Unfortunately, the circles and factions chanting slogans of exporting the Islamic revolution and creating a so-called Islamic empire or Iranian land as the so-called third superpower of the world are still powerful in the Iranian Government. It must be said that all these thoughts are not dissimilar to an expansionist policy. Once again we ask the Iranian Government to respect the Geneva Convention on the voluntary return of the refugees to their country and to remove the self-made barriers from the path of the Afghan refugees.

[Question] Question by (Charles Chembareni), journalist from Zimbabwe: As we have heard, you have held talks with the ex-king of Afghanistan within the framework of national reconciliation. Please tell us what role will be undertaken by the king in the future of Afghanistan?

[Najib] We are keeping the door to talks and reconciliation open to all those who are interested in the future peace of the country and who do not regard the path of war as the way to resolve issues. Our people hate bloodshed; therefore, talks to end the bloodshed are not surprising.

[Question] Question by journalist from the PDRY: What effect has Afghanistan's revolution had on the region?

[Najib] The revolution in Afghanistan was widely welcomed by the people in the countries of this region. The humane objectives of the revolution and its gains played a role in awakening the region's people and in arousing their solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, which penetrated the barriers of unbearable and unprecedented difficulties arising from the imposed war.

Today not only the people but the governments, parliaments, social organizations, and political organizations in many countries of the region widely support the policy of national reconciliation and the initiative to end this bloody war. Some countries have sent their delegations to our nation and others, in a systematic manner, publish material about the progress of national reconciliation. I approve the talk by the representative of the

information center of Asian youth, (?Denydan). He said that reconciliation is not only a step toward the restoration of peace on Afghan territory, but it is a step toward maintaining peace on the whole Asian Continent. Reconciliation is also an example of a new political approach to the peaceful resolution of conflicts on our planet. It is difficult to add anything to this.

[Question] Question by journalist from the PDRY: Some regimes are regarded as members of the Nonaligned Movement but they are linked with imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism. What have you to say aboutthis?

[Najib] There is no doubt that the Nonaligned Movement is not homogeneous. The coexistence of regimes with different socio-economic systems and different political views within the family of nonalignment is a natural thing and is regarded as an example of [word indistinct] of ideology for peace. However, we cannot (?deny) the fact that imperialism and reaction, by using their agents, are always trying to divert the movement from its natural course and alienate it from its genuine principles and objectives for the sake of which the movement came into being. The agents of imperialism, which exist inside the movement for the purpose of causing a split and sowing discord by imposing resolutions contrary to the spirit of nonalignment, are trying to indirectly turn the movement into their dependency. However, they will never succeed.

[Question] Question by representative from Benin: You said in your speech that your objective is the existence of an independent, nonaligned, peace-loving and neutral Afghanistan. I want to know at which stage of independence, nonalignment, and neutrality you now find yourself.

[Najib] Independence, nonalignment, and neutrality are not stages or various degrees of a country's political status. A country can have all three of these political characteristics at one time. The DRA is currently independent, free, and nonaligned, and we are progressing toward a consolidation of this stand and an increase in our political credibility based on the will and interest of our people. However, the objective of imperialism is hidden in its desire to change the character of Afghanistan from an independent, nonaligned, and neutral country.

[Question] Question by an Indian journalist: Now that Pakistan has obtained assistance from the United States and is becoming an obstacle to your efforts toward a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan, how do you see the future? Do you intend to form a coalition with all political forces, including those who oppose the aims of socialism, progress, and a democratic society in Afghanistan?

[Najib] We are relying on the fact that Pakistan will take a realistic stand toward the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. Since reconciliation in Afghanistan will positively influence the general regional situation, in our opinion, this is responsive to the interests of the peoples of all the countries.

In Afghanistan, objective conditions exist for the coalition of all peace-loving forces of society. Eliminating political, social, and economic backwardness in the country, establishing a lasting peace throughout Afghanistan, and defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country are the tasks that history has laid before our people. Only the solution of these problems will make Afghanistan prosperous. During these changes our people will choose their path of progress. I repeat that we take steps on this path along with all the forces who desire the end of bloodshed and fratricide.

As for the prospects of a coalition government, we do not have in mind only those forces which are close to us ideologically and politically; rather, we are prepared within the framework of a coalition government to cooperate with all political, social, and national forces which are in agreement that the fratricidal war should be immediately stopped and that, in the future, the use of armed forces in solving internal problems should not be allowed. Thank you.

[Question] Question by a journalist from the PDRY: How do you assess the future of the Nonaligned Movement?

[Najib] I believe that the Nonaligned Movement, which is an important factor in safeguarding international peace and security, has a bright future. The influence of the imperialist warmongers inside the Nonaligned Movement is at present decreasing. Those who support the warmongers are becoming politically isolated. In the meantime, the role and importance of the Nonaligned Movement is consistently growing in the international arena. Thank you.

[Question] Question by a journalist from the PDRY: How do you assess relations between the parties and people of the friendly countries of Yemen and Afghanistan?

[Najib] Relations between the parties and people of Afghanistan and Yemen are developing at a satisfactory rate. Our parties have protocols of cooperation and our people enjoy unbreakable solidarity in the struggle against the conspiracies and intrigues of the common imperialist enemy. We believe these relations will further develop actively.

[Question] Question by a Spanish journalist: There has been very little information recently about the Geneva talks and the mediating role of the United Nations. Please tell us if there is a hope for an accord soon.

[Najib] The last round of talks in Geneva ended 4 months ago. It was decided that the date for future talks will be agreed through diplomatic channels. The fact that at present little information is available in this regard is natural. If Pakistan chooses a logical position, free from pressures by the United States, we are not only hopeful, but confident that the Geneva process will be close to the final soltuion. If Pakistan abandons its position of political ambiguity, this will give decisive dynamism to this matter. Thank you.

[Question] Question by a journalist from (?Yemen): How confident are you that the reconciliation policy will succeed?

[Najib] We profoundly believe in this policy. I think that there is no other alternative to it. Our confidence is in reliance on the interests and aspirations of the people and originates from their

desire for peace. Therefore, we are confident of its success and,we work and struggle toward that end.

[Question] Another question from the Yemeni journalist: In the Western press and mass media there is a hue and cry that the Soviet Union is withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan. What is your view on this?

[Najib] Of course the Soviet Union is withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan. Nothing is uknown in this regard. Therefore, it is not fully understandable what this hue and cry of the Western mass media is about. It could be that they have not read numerous statements by our government and the Soviet Government that if guarantees for nonrepetition of aggression from outside are given, the limited Soviet forces will leave our country. We and the Sovietshave repeatedly stated that a timetable for the withdrawl of Soviet forces has been agreed. The Soviet Union has twice withdrawn its limited forces — in 1982 and in 1986, when six regiments of the limited Soviet forces returned home.

[Question] Question by Pedro Miguel from Portugal: What would be your next step after the expiry of the cease-fire period? If the opposition does not join the state sovereignty after 15 July, will the Afghan Government intensify its combat activities?

[Najib] I think all of you will agree with me that taking the next step, particularly the step forward, is more difficult than the previous ones. In this regard we have time and again said that in response to our peaceful measures we also expect reciprocal measures from the opposition. Here, above all, I mean measures for stopping bloodshed and the war of fratricide and the urgent restoration of peace in our misery-stricken homeland.

We are not dreaming that all of the opposition will immediately join the state sovereignty. Let the opposition unite their people and together with us ensure a peaceful life for them. If the opposition continues the war, cultivating the seeds of pain and sorrow, destruction and terror for the inhabitants in the future, or,in other words, if the opposition carries out actions against people in the future, then we naturally cannot remain indifferent. In any case, however, we will not open fire against those who stop fighting against their people. We will strictly observe the conditions of reconciliation with them and will strictly put these conditions into practice.

With regard to irreconcilable groups, their convoys of weapons, and their bases, we cannot play the role of spectators. Our forces are completely capable of inflicting heavy blows on these groups, including their convoys of weapons and their bases.

The other side also knows this fact very well. However, I repeat that we are for the complete end to combat activities and the ultimate end of the war of fratricide. We once again invite the opposition to this cause.

[Question] Question from Salim Mobandi of Tanzania: Taking into account the fact that the mass media of the country plays a great role in explaining the policies of the PDPA, I want to know what specific measures have been taken by the party and government for its better performance?

[Najib] As I have mentioned in my speech, 43 newspapers and journals and 28 magazines are published in Afghanistan. Radio, television, and the *Bakhtar* news agency are functioning. The journalists receive specific assistance from the party and government. Serious attention has been paid to the training of journalist cadres. Colleges of journalism have been opened at Kabul University and the Social Sciences Institute. A system of meetings has been introduced between journalists and government leaders, ministers, and leading experts at news conferences. Journalists can obtain the necessary information on problems in social, political, and economic spheres. Our people respect the work of their journalists. Five journalists have obtained the title of Academician of the DRA and nine journalists became the best cultural workers. Pay a visit to our journalists club; you will like it. Our press center has become operational.

I can declare with full responsibility that our mass media is seeking objectivity and is reflecting the truth. It is not the sort of media about which the AAPSO correspondent spoke when he said: If we base our judgment in accordance with the Western mass media, then we would say that the absolute majority of the Afghan population has fled to Pakistan and Iran and the remaining population has been annihilated by the Soviet forces. You have been in the DRA for a week. Have you seen such a thing? On the contrary, the refugees are coming to our side and the Soviet forces are helping the inhabitants in the construction of our peaceful country.

[Question] Question from (Salvador Royiman) of Tanzania: We have heard a lot about Babrak Karmal, the former PDPA Central Committee general secretary. Some say that he has been peacefully removed from his post and others say that he is under house arrest. Please tell us the truth of this matter.

[Najib] In May of last year Comrade Babrak Karmal was relieved of his post as PDPA Central Committee general secretary at his own request. In November, he was relieved of his post as DRA Revolutionary Council president. The Revolutionary Council, in appreciation of his services to the revolution and the party, awarded Comrade Babrak Karmal the Medal of the April Revolution. It has been 3 months now since Comrade Babrak Karmal went to Moscow for treatment and rest.

[Question] Question from a representative of Benin: You are ready for the creation of a coalition government with the participation of the opposition forces provided that they support the prosperity of Afghanistan. All the opposition claim that their one and only desire is the prosperity of the Afghan people. How long do you think that the process of national reconciliation will continue under such conditions?

[Najib] Answering this question from the point of view of putting forward a precise timeframe is difficult. No one can say on what day or what hour this very new -- and at the same time very complex -- process will end. National reconciliation in our country demands that the opposition should also go halfway toward the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. In the process of struggling for peace everyone will see for themselves who really wants the prosperity of the people, who will work hard in this direction, and who will only utter words and do the contrary.

[Question] Question from (Yuriy Waninin) of Finland: In your speech you spoke about the creation of a multiparty system. When will this be possible?

[Najib] A law on the legalization and creation of new parties will soon be published. This law, as required, will envision the conditions for legality of the present parties and organizations, as well as conditions for the legality of new parties and organizations.

I am confident that national reconciliation will prepare the ground for the creation of a suitable platform for the activities of all groups who have a common, sincere interest in progress, development, and the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan in order to ensure that we may live in friendship with our neighbors.

[Question] Question by (Pantly Siyafs) from AAPSO: With which opposition forces has the Government of Afghanistan carried out talks within the framework of national reconciliaiton; when and what actions will be taken?

[Najib] Holding talks with representatives of opposition parties is the key for the policy of national reconciliation; however the spectrum of the opposiiton is very broad. Therefore, we want to tackle this issue with more flexibility and hold talks on a wide level, making use of various channels.

We strongly support explicit and constructive dialogue with those sections of the opposition who are in the territory of Afghanistan. As a result, more than 25,000 armed and deceived persons have come over to the side of national sovereignty. And the process of talks is continuing with over 100 armed groups, which include tens of thousands of people. We will try to promote this process in the future.

We have carried out talks in Geneva with the representatives of Afghan refugees who live in the United States and they, on their part, have links with the Seven Party Alliance. Our consulates in various countries are in contact with refugees, including political personalities of past regimes, clergymen, etc., and they explain the contents and thoughts of the national reconciliation policy to those Afghans who have left Afghanistan and encourage them to return to the land of their forefathers.

As far as the other forms of contacts are concerned, talking about them is premature until final results are achieved.

[Question] Question from an Indian journalist: There has been discussion that a temporary government of national unity will be created in order to secure the simultanous withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the cessation of intervention from abroad; then a general election will take place. To what extent is the formation of such a national unity government true?

[Najib] We propose the creation of a national unity government by creating a coalition government based on the unity of all forces who support the cessation of war and fratricide. Only such a coalition can bring peace to our land, secure the sovereignty of Afghanistan, and prepare the ground for the solution of serious problems. Obviously, the foundation of a coalition government means that Afghanistan in the future will remain an indivisible, sovereign, nonaligned, and neutral country. However, we are realistic and we do not think that the formation of a national unity government, considering all the complications, will be an easy or simple task. Only a realistic and responsible approach by all interested parties will prepare the ground for the success of this important and vital task.

[Question] Question by an Indian journalist: The relentless supporters of the April Revolution outside the country feel that you are handing over the gains of the April Revolution. They argue that the April Revolution was a barrier for the revival of monarchy in the country. Now you are preparing to create a coalition government with the participation of Zahir Shah. Moreover, it has been argued that despite mistakes in the implementation of land reform, in party actions regarded as fundamental gains of the revolution, you now retreat by returning land to landowners and by increasing the limit of landownership. You refuse to use the expression of land reform. How do you assess this retreat from the objectives of the revolution?

[Najib] The April Revolution has really opened a new page in the rich history of our people. I think that many of the difficulties stem from important objective causes, above all the huge socio-economic backwardness of our society. The April Revolution attained an objective which none of the political forces of Afghanistan could reach: to get rid of the economic role and political power of the exploiting class. This was the fundamental obstacle on the path of progress by our society, and its removal constitutes the worthy historic services of the revolution and our party. But in the past we proceeded with unreasonable haste; we lost sight of the objective conditions and apparently forgot about them. Admittedly, the demand for the acceleration of the achievement of prosperity and tranquillity for our people is a noble demand and is always the characteristic trait of genuine revolutionaries. However, we should recognize the objective, evolutionary laws of the society. In light of these, we have corrected our political policy and practical work and made them conform to the requirements of life and the demands of our people; that is to say, what should be accomplished in the specific conditions of Afghanistan will be implemented.

Such an approach has been reflected in the recent decisions concerning the land and water issue and the creation of an antiwar society which will have the duty to halt tragic confrontations. Is this a retreat? We can say it like this: Yes, this is a retreat; that is to say, retreat from our original thoughts about the progress of the revolution in a backward and underdeveloped country. But revolutionary experience teaches us political realism. We also point out that genuine revolutionaries are bound to learn both the strategy of advancement and of tactical retreat in equal manner and to learn everything about the science of success.

[Question] Question by Pedro Miguel from Portugal: In a war environment, economic growth is difficult. Therefore, what is your plan for improving the living standard of the Afghan people?

[Najib] With the assistance of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, the party and government, despite the circumstances of war, put into practice several measures for raising the

people's standard of living. The basic socioeconomic development guideline of the DRA for 1987-1990 has been planned and is being implemented. This document consists of a long-term socioeconomic program that has been designed to meet the needs of the Afghan people. It envisions growth in all sectors, including the private sector. As a result of these measures we have succeeded in attaining a specific growth rate as compared with the prerevolution years.

Since the revolution the salaries of the workers and civil servants and the purchase price of agricultural products have risen, while the price of chemical fertilizer has fallen.

A formidable system to supply the workers with basic commodities and free foodstuffs in all government enterprises and institutions has been created. Under the new policy, the salary of various catagories of workers and personnel of the Armed Forces has been increased and the regional allowances for extra pay in return for work under difficult local, natural, and climatic conditions have been worked out. Moreover, we have approved the free distribution of flour and cooking oil to coupon holders.

Simply stated, during the 5 years since the revolution 3 billion afghanis have been spent to raise the living standard of the people by the government; 3 billion afghanis will be spent for this purpose every year for the next 5 years. Meanwhile, the huge sums that the government has allocated for the assistance of the refugees must also be considered.

[Question] Question by (Carlos Frandes) from Mexico: Afghanistan traditionally is an Islamic country. How does the revolutionary regime manage to propagate various philosophies; that is, Islam and Marxism-Leninism?

[Najib] It should be mentioned that the social doctrine of Islam, its historic invitation to equality, and its denunciation of exploitation and usury -- all of these issues are connected and are understandable for the revolutionaries of a country whose population believes in Islam. Revolution has taken place for the people.

Islam in Afghanistan has profound historic roots and has been transformed into a fundamental element of our people's life. Therefore, our social, political, and economic objectives would be impractical without taking into account the factor of the sacred religion of Islam. It is not accidental that the second article of the new Constitution states that Islam is the religion of the Afghan people.

[Question] Question by (Yuriy Waninin) from Finland: The cease-fire period announced in the middle of January ends next week. Was this time enough for achieving the desired goals?

[Najib] No, it was not enough. Some opposition groups responded to our peaceful calls by increasing aggression from abroad and by using the most modern, deadly weapons at the orders of imperialism. But, as I have said before, we are busy taking new measures for carrying out national reconciliation which will undoubtedly help the growth of this process.

[Question] Question by (Ricardo Riman), representative from Mozambique: Your excellency, please explain the problems facing the policy of national reconciliation. Can it be regarded as a successful process?

[Najib] I have just replied to this question.

[Question] Question by Pedro Miguel from Portugal: Does the Afghan leadership think that the process of national reconciliation will bear positive results?

[Najib] Another similar question. Anyway, it is impossible to demonstrate everything with figures. During this period, a great deal of work has been done compared to the post revolution years. For instance, during the last 7 years, 37,000 people returned to the country while in the past 5 months 62,000 have returned. In the past, 250-300 villages were coming under the control of the state every year; during the last 5 months 1,335 villages have come under the control of popular sovereignty by peaceful means. There are many such comparisons. Economic, agricultural, and construction affairs are improving considerably. Social policy has been consolidated. Many more hospitals and shops have been built. Salaries of most catagories of inhabitants have increased. Similarly, there are other results which cannot be gauged with figures, primarily the morale of the people who believe in getting out of military stalemate. All of this has been made possible despite the conditions of increasing interference by imperialism and reaction, unprecedented terror, and the the enemy's military hysteria. Yes, we can claim that reconciliation has been changed from a slogan to reality.

[Question] Question by (Ricardo Riman) from Mozambique: What is the state of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan?

[Najib] We are neighbors with Pakistan. History has made such a division. All the people of the world live in one common home. At present, all issues are interrelated, interdependent, and have such a general nature that no one country can resolve them on their own. This actually means that together with the Government of Pakistan we should jointly assess the issues and find ways out of the many deadlocked situations. We are ready for direct talks and dialogue.

[Question] Another question from (Ricardo Riman) of Mozambique: In your view, what are the important successes of the Afghan revolution?

[Najib] Although times are difficult at present and the situation is complicated, aggression and the undeclared war continue against our people; in some cases it is dramatic. However, I can say with complete confidence that our revolution has a bright future. The main and important success of the revolution is to ensure and strengthen the political sovereignty of all Afghan people. The rights of the largest class in the country — the peasants — have been safeguarded by the new land and water reform law. There is no social class or group to whose interests the government has not paid attention.

[Question] Question by Comrade A. Borisov, correspondent of *Asia and Africa Today* magazine: As you have mentioned in your speech, 25 years ago Afghanistan was one of the founding

members of the Nonaligned Movement. The conference held in Kabul recently is the best evidence that your policy regarding this movement has not changed. How would you specify the present tendencies of developing relations with the members of the Nonaligned Movement?

[Najib] True, our country has been an active member of the Nonaligned Movement for a quarter of a century. During this period,Afghanistan has played and will continue to play its part in consolidating trust among the peoples and states of the nonaligned countries. As for other meetings held in Kabul, I can name the two AAPSO conferences held in 1985 and 1986 under the slogan "New International Information Order." Afghanistan has been the initiator of such measures and our recent conference was one of them. With regard to our relations with the countries of the Nonaligned Movement,I can say that good relations have been established with the majority of these countries. I want to mention that in recent years our reciprocal relations with the friendly country of India in various areas, particularly economic and cultural spheres, have been consolidated and expanded. An Indian commercial exhibition has been opened in Kabul, the first exhibition of its kind in recent years.

Recently, diplomatic relations have been established with Zimbabwe, which heads the movement. Our delegation to the eighth conference of the heads of state of the nonaligned countries was led by the chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers. We have also established diplomatic relations with Cyprus. Our contacts with the Arab countries is growing. In recent months our party and state delegations have visited Syria, the PDRY, Iraq, Libya, and the DPRK, where a number of agreements have been signed. Our relations with the countries of Africa and Latin America are being strengthened. In addition, our contacts with the social organizations of the nonaligned countries are growing. As you may know, the spectrum of our relations with the nonaligned member countries is very broad. Of course, there are also some difficulties in this regard. Some members of the movement have unfortunately taken a completely unfriendly stance against us as a result of imperialist propaganda and pressure. However, we will try through diplomatic channels to establish good relations with all countries and, first of all, with the members of the Nonaligned Movement.

[Question] What will be the decisions of the Afghan people after the 10th anniversary of the revolution? [question not attributed]

[Najib] Their decisions will be most peaceful and most humanitarian in implementing the peace program until victory is achieved. We are gladly approaching the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution and we will mark it in a suitable manner with work, defense of the revolution, and creativity.

(Charlin Chakarema), the head of the Zimbabwe journalists union, in his speech (?expressed) optimism that the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution will witness the implementation of the national reconciliation policy which is being launched by the people of Afghanistan; and we believe this completely.

[Question] Question by (Aleda Akedotun) of Nigeria: Since our arrival in Kabul to participate in this conference we have heard much about the national reconciliation policy. What is the purpose of this policy? What victories have you achieved in the national reconstruction, national accord, and renewal of the country?

[Najib] I have generally answered this question. The objective of the national reconciliation is simple, humane, and beautiful: Peace in this persecuted land of ours and the reconciliation of brothers. You have seen the symbol of reconciliation in which our demands have been reflected — the shaking of hands by men on opposite sides. The times we live in are extraordinarily interesting. We believe that the implementation of reconciliation in itself helps national reconstruction -- it attracts people from all strata. We provide opportunities for their talents to flourish. Everyone can play a part in this great cause. We continue to ask for people's patience and tolerance and to teach each other to work together under national reconciliation. Of course, this is not a simple task.

[Question] Question by the *Al-Nidha* newspaper and the Voice of the People radio, the organ of the Communist Party of Lebanon: Please describe the state of culture and education in the country.

[Najib] The state authorities, despite all the difficulties, have paid attention to the development of culture and education and have taken care of cultural traditions. New cultural institutions will be opened and cultural centers will be created. Educational foundations will be restored and revived. The number of public libraries has increased tenfold since the revolution. The Arg Palace has been put at the disposal of the people and culture. National culture is growing. The union of cultural personalities, consisting of 2,000 people, and the union of journalists, consisting of 1,500 people, are being activated.

As for education and training, during the post-revolution years much work has been done in this respect. Hundreds of new schools have been built and 13 new technical and vocational schools have been opened. Institutions and pedagogical institutions have been established. A great deal of assistance is being given by the Soviet Union in this regard. Each year the number of new pupils in schools increases by 18,000. Right now over 700,000 pupils are in school.

However, there are problems and difficulties in education: numerous schools have been destroyed by the counterrevolutionaries. Over 40 percent of schools are rented and we are facing a shortage of teachers. The program of education and training [words indistinct] by the DRA Government, we are hoping to put into practice.

[Question] Question by the *Al-Nidha* newspaper and the Voice of the People radio, the organ of the Communist Party of Lebanon: You have embarked on a program to eradicate illiteracy and you have received the UNESCO medal for the victories achieved. How is this program doing under the circumstances of war when you have concentrated all your efforts on defense matters?

[Answer] The eradication of illiteracy is a formidable sociopolitical duty. There were 95 percent illiterate males and 97 percent illiterate females before the revolution. After the revolution, a broad network of courses was created to eradicate

illiteracy; 1.7 million people became literate. We can say that everyone -- the youths, elders, women, and personnel of the Armed Forces -- is learning to read and write. We will proudly carry out the duty imposed by UNESCO to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000.

[Question] Question by Indian journalist: National reconciliation in the DRA is not a new issue; these two words were specifically used last year by the Afghan leadership. What is the difference between the ideals of national reconciliation and your previous policy?

[Najib] Our party always wanted peace and for revolutionary changes to take place in the country through peaceful means. The undeclared war has been imposed on the Afghan people by international reactionary forces. We are merely defending the historic gains of the revolution in accordance with the wishes and desires of the people. In the present stage in particular, profound conditions have been prepared in order to achieve objectives of national and social creativity by peaceful means without loss of life or bloodshed. The national reconciliation policy is the continuation of the party's policy for unity and cooperation among all national and patriotic forces and the uniting of their endeavors in the name of peace in our unfortuante land.

Najibullah Addresses Nomad Assembly 5 Jul

LD071812 Kabul in Pashto to Europe
1730 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Speech by PDPA General Secretary Najibullah at first assembly of nomads in Kabul on 5 July — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed elders of the brave tribes of nomads and friends, peace be upon you. First of all, I sincerely welcome you to the historical city of Kabul. I congratulate you on this historical, great assembly. Today -- this proud day of the assembly of your courageous tribes -- will live in the hearts of our people and history forever.

For the first time in Afghan history, your assembly is being convened in the cradle of multinational Afghanistan, in Kabul. For the first time Kabul begins direct and open talks with the representatives of the Afghan nomads. These are talks of peace, truth, and understanding. You have traveled a long road in order to come here for the cause of unity, a road that cannot be measured in kilometers, but by our years- and decades-long history. And today it provided the grounds for your assembly and all our efforts at the Salam Khanah Hall.

Although the nomadic life is very different from that of the peasants, they are still brothers in blood, customs, traditions, and the sacred religion of Islam. As the people say, every hand has five fingers, but they are not the same. There are more than 20 nationalities, and more than 100 tribes and clans live in our country. They are the children of one homeland, ancient Afghanistan. The nomads have equal rights with other fraternal nationalities and tribes of Afghanistan. They are not a separate nation but an inseparable part of the fraternal Afghan people. We all have one religion and that is the sacred religion of Islam. Our revolutionary state pursues its policy with Islam's principles. We all have one common homeland -- great, ancient, free, nonaligned, and neutral Afghanistan.

History has shown again and again the firmness of these links. The country's nomads and peasants live close to each other. The nomads have not left their brothers isolated in difficult times and have always shared the sorrows and happiness of their compatriots and brothers. Along with their cotribal Durani and Ghelzai nomads, they pledged loyalty to the founder of the Afghan state, Ahmad Shah Baba. They courageously defended the borders of the young state against foreign enemies. The sacrifices and patriotism of the Afghan nomads in fighting against the British have an outstanding place in history. People say that a man is tested on the battlefield. The true fighters were the sons of the black tents of the country who fought shoulder to shoulder with the courageous Afghan Army and three times foiled the designs of British colonialism which attempted to completely control Afghanistan and bind the courageous Afghan nation with the chains of colonialism.

The great historic deeds of the courageous Pashtun tribes at Maywand and Spinboldak will remain forever in the memory of the Afghan people. The courageous commanders of the nomad armies in the war of 1919 for independence -- Ajab Khan, Mohammad Jan, Mola Khedai Baba, Hazrat Mohammad, Warukay Shahmorad Kheyl, Mohammad Jan, Dito, Bahram, and Essa Khan -- became famous figures in the various clans. The armies under their command dealt fatal blows to the occupying British forces. The memory of these heroic martyrs will live forever in the hearts of the Afghans.

After the war with the British, the nomads defended their beloved homeland several times. We remember courageous elders such as Soltan, Nur, Miran, and Akbar Khan who shielded themselves against the Pakistan troops in defending the Khowst borders. They not only freed and cleansed the Khowst border from the aggressors, but also inflicted severe losses on the Pakistani troops. In the war against the British, the nomads shed their blood to gain the freedom and independence of Afghanistan and thus obtained rights of equality and justice.

The feudal rulers wanted to keep the nomads illiterate, backward, and poor. The antipopular governments' more than 50 years of indifference to their social and economic needs made their life harder and more troublesome.

As a result of insufficient medical assistance in the country, infant mortality among the nomads is the highest among all groups. Due to the lack of medical care and midwifery, the majority of deaths of young women occur in childbirth. The nomads have rebeled against the tyranny of the Afghan amirs. The nomads' desire for freedom was stronger than the armies, guns, and bullets of the amirs. Exactly 100 years ago the rising fire of the Ghelzai tribe was kindled and they accepted a large share of the burden of fighting the British occupiers in the Afghan-British wars. The aim of the oppressive regimes was to keep the fire of tribal disputes going among the Afghan people in order to draw their attention away from the struggle for social and political progress. Big landlords and high-ranking officials of the monarchy were concerned only with filling their pockets

in order to have a happy and luxurious life. In just a few years, they plundered our county with the help of foreign monopolies and transformed our country into a backward state.

The victory of the April national democratic revolution in the country was supported by all people and nationalities, peasants, livestock breeders, artisans and intellectuals, the Army, and state employees. The aims of the revolution were clear to every Afghan: building a completely free Afghanistan, enhancing the economy and the people's living standard, maintaining democratic rights and freedoms, and developing the culture of all fraternal nationalities and people.

An undeclared war by regional reaction and imperialism, as well as counterrevolutionary elements, were obstacles to the peaceful constructive work in Democratic Afghanistan. Many loyal sons of Afghanistan lost their lives in this war. The poor peasants and artisans, women, children, and elderly men had innumerable problems. No American or Englishman died in this unholy war, but the blood of the Afghan fraternal nationalities and families were shed on both sides. The perpetrators of this national tragedy are those forces who hope to rule over Afghanistan, those who want to keep Afghanistan backward and a captive to international imperialism. For the purpose of these inhuman aims, they consistently supply modern weapons to the extremist, counterrevolutionary groups in Pakistan and Iran and continue the campaign of slander and economic blockade against Afghanistan.

For 9 years now the leaders of the counterrevolution groups, under the veil of the sacred religion of Islam, have been engaged in fratricide and the destruction of mosques, schools, and bridges, and the plunder of public wealth. In the interest of their international masters, these persons want to return to the past and enslave Afghanistan forever in economic, cultural, and political backwardness. The Afghan people are not alone in the just struggle and work of their homeland. They have many international friends. It has been the great Soviet Union that has strived to help and cooperate with the Afghan people during the most difficult times. It was the country with whom we share 66 years of friendship and cooperation, a legacy from our fathers and forefathers. This friendship is not only a historical tradition; its foundation was laid by Amir Amanollah Khan during the restoration of Afghan independence. This friendship has been passed from heart to heart; this friendship provides the most important conditions for strong security, a developed national economy, an enhanced standard of living for the people, and a prosperous social life and culture. Every Afghan sees with his own eyes the selfless aid of the Soviet Union. This help is seen in construction projects, in the distribution of free food and goods among the poor people who have suffered in the war, and in the training of Afghan national cadres such as engineers, doctors, economists, and geologists.

Let us decide where and when to distribute grant-in-aid goods to the nomads and if this is possible. It is difficult to assess the value of the Soviet internationalist troops in preventing ever-increasing external interference. However, their proud deeds will always live in the memories and hearts of the Afghan people.

Consider your life during the last few years. You must see how hard it is for you to travel to your grazing lands; how difficult it is to take your herds on traditional routes, to sell meat, pelts, and wool, and to buy what you need. Whenever you travel through the mountains and deserts of your homeland, you notice changes — destroyed villages, dried up streams, barren lands, and empty bazaars. The people of these villages who happily welcomed the wandering nomads are now frightened by the sight of strangers and lock their doors. They ask: Who are you? Are you enemy or friend? Such are the questions which thousands of Afghans ask today when faced by strange armed people. Do you know how much you have been besieged by the undeclared war? When you travel along traditional routes, valleys, and grazing lands, you are not only apprehensive of planted mines, but you are carrying weapons night and day because you are afraid of being attacked by bandits, and you are afraid that your flocks and herds might be plundered. Is it not necessary in this regard to think, talk about, and to join hands in order to end this futile bloodshed?

The party and popular government, in consideration of the sacred duty of preserving Afghan national interests, deem it necessary to seriously consider the question of maintaining lasting peace and security in the country. The announcement of the national reconciliation policy by the PDPA reflects the hopes and aspirations of the millions of Afghans inside and outside the country, and of all those who seek peace. This task was not simple or easy. But the Pashtuns say: No matter how high the mountain, a path runs on top of it. We have chosen this as our goal and we will never retreat from this correct path. We have chosen the correct path; it was affirmed by the people of Afghanistan themselves. They responded positively to our initiative. During the months that have passed since the announcement of the cease-fire, more than 25,000 armed people have laid down arms and have joined the government. And 62,000 refugees have returned from abroad. Talks are being conducted with numerous armed groups. These figures could have been far greater. However, we should not forget the activities of the enemies of Afghanistan against national reconciliation, in particular the increasing activities of U.S. imperialism. We can, nevertheless, say with confidence that they cannot stand against the progressive strata of the country's tribes and nationalities. This is a clear and obvious fact. A river is formed by drops of water. In this way the idea of national reconciliation finds its way to the heart of every human being and slowly builds a flow of supporters of peace and security in the homeland.

A few days ago the meeting of the Supreme Council of National Reconciliation was held and it proposed to extend the cease-fire for another 6 months. What do you nomad brothers think of that? Should we end the cease-fire, or shall we extend it for a further 6 months? What do you think? (?War is not good). Shall we extend the cease-fire? [applause]

A people's rule is a policy that relies only on the broad masses of the country and responds to their needs and demands. We have thought a great deal about the specific assistance that should be extended to the country's nomadic tribes for improving their living conditions. There are decisions relating to this in party and government documents. The party's action program addresses issues related to the improvement of grazing lands and their availability to nomads, the provision of facilities along the tradi-

tional routes of the nomadic tribes, the education and training of nomads, the speediest possible development of education of the nomadic tribes, improvement of their cultural and medical facilities, and the creation of markets at which the nomads could easily trade their products. The supply of grain products, medicines, and basic goods to the nomads and the question of feeding their animals were considered.

The state has examined many possibilities for the creation of permanent and mobile centers in order to provide facilities on the nomads' routes, the creation of production and consumer cooperatives, the provision of necessary economic assistance to those nomads who want settled farming life, the creation of a state system for purchasing livestock products, mobile schools and medical centers, and the provision of clean water at gathering places of nomads and others. The question is how these can be put into practice. We should discuss with you what specific assistance the nomadic tribes want from the state and we promise you that we will not spare from you anything that we have. [applause]

However, we want your help too. We want the Afghan nomads, who are loyal to the historical fraternity of the people of the country, to stand in the ranks of strugglers on the path of national reconciliation. There is nothing more important today than peace; you have testified to this previously. You can help to resolve this problem: Close the routes to your places of abode to the intriguing enemies; do not help them smuggle weapons and ammunition. We believe that a number of you should do this. We can, however, reach an agreement with you and compensate you for any material damage inflicted on you as a result of your refusal to help the counterrevolutionary elements.

Your young sons have the duty to protect the security of their homes, families, herds, and flocks. If you agree with us that your youths should form local self-defense groups, we will not draft them into the ranks of the Afghan Armed Forces. In this way your sons will enjoy all the privileges of the Armed Forces which are set out in the general military conscription law. We are even ready to release those nomadic youths who have been recruited for service in the Army. [applause]

We know and respect the religious leaders of the Afghan nomads such as Mia Omar [name indistinct] from Mia Kheyl; Hoseyn Baba from Hosayn Kheyl; Hayat Baba from Kharut; Ahmad Baba from Ahmadzai; and Nazar Gol Faqir from Solaymanzai. We are always ready to assist the nomadic brothers in performing their Islamic sacred duties. We can provide the necessary facilities this year for a number of nomads to go on a pilgrimage to the house of God. We ask you to cooperate with the people's government because it is in fact your government. We are ready to include your very respected leaders in the Revolutionary Council, which is the highest legislative organ of our state. [applause]

Give us the names of some of your respected leaders. The nomads long ago obtained the right to take part in the administration of our state. In order to facilitate your links with the high authorities of the Afghan leadership, let us form a central council or an assembly of the nomad tribes, and give broad authority to all its members in the work of improving the life and working conditions of the Afghan nomads. We promise to meet with your representatives regularly for discussions and to find solutions to matters of concern.

Nomad brothers, you travel through those villages where your compatriots live. You try and earn your hard living. The livestock breeder nomads had mutual trade dealings with settled farmers, and these dealings were often tied with the knots of tradition, with hope and sincerity to the farmers. We request that together you struggle for maintaining peace in the country. Go to the people under the authority of the popular state; form joint assemblies; establish links with the councils of people's representatives and the commissions of national reconciliation. We have instructed the local national reconciliation commissions to accept nomadic representatives in their composition.

If you are true friends of revolutionary Afghanistan — you undoubtedly are — do not spare yourselves to tell the representatives of popular power in the villages all about this. Trust them. They will always try to give you the necessary help. However, you should not remain indifferent to village problems. If the enemy is found in the mountains, inform the villagers about it. Let your armed units, in collaboration with the local self-defense groups, operate jointly. Do not leave your peasant brothers alone to suffer. Remember that sincere friendship and mutual help will bring speedy peace, and that peace is the guarantor of your improved life. Strong be the friendship and unity between the nomads and villages! [applause]

Dear friends, at this meeting we must not only discuss your demands and problems, but we must talk about the destiny of our homeland to which the Afghan nomads have always been loyal sons. As I said before, today there is no more important matter before us than that of peace. Truth plays a great role in this work and in answering the people's questions regarding peace. During your stay in Kabul you saw many things. I can say that you saw the first fruits of national reconciliation. Let what you saw and heard remain in your hearts, so that you can take it with you to your places of abode and to the villages on your path. Take this message to our refugee brothers in Pakistan who live in poverty and hardship. Tell them to come home and take part in building a new and prosperous life. Take our message -- peace at home, prosperity at home -- to those Afghans who have been deceived by enemy propaganda, who have not laid down their weapons, and who are fighting against popular power. In this way you can perform your faithful duty for your persecuted homeland. The words of peace and truth in your hearts will be more influential on the enemy than guns and ammunition. The sound of peace and truth will be stronger than the sound of guns. Let us struggle on the path of national reconciliation in Afghanistan. And let us build a beautiful future as a result of joint efforts.

Stand under the proud and sacred flag of our forefathers for peace!

Help your motherland in its hard days, and our proud people will never forget you.

Long live the heroic nomads of Afghanistan!

Long live national reconciliation!

Long live free and [word indistinct] Afghanistan!

Law on Political Parties Published 6 Jul
LD071930 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0509 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Kabul, July 6, *Bakhtar* — The law on political parties which was approved by the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA in three chapters and 18 articles was published in the mass media here today.

Under this law, the political parties can voluntarily admit the individuals of the society to the membership of the political party regardless of their nationality, language, tribe, sex, religion, education, occupation, property, social status and place of residence.

The political parties, says the law, are to observe and respect the sacred religion of Islam, religious, national, historical and cultural traditions of the people of Afghanistan. The constitution of political parties is to comply with the principles of defending the independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and socio-economic growth of the country, to avoid armed campaign against the state sovereignty and other political parties, to support the policy of national reconciliation and not to support colonialism, neo-colonialism, imperialism, Zionism, racial discrimination, apartheid and fascism are among the requirements to be honoured by the political parties.

The observance of the world declaration of human rights, the principle of peaceful co-existence, friendship and cooperation with the people of the world, pursuance of a policy of non alignment and constructive neutrality should also be taken into account in the programme and constitution of the parties.

Under the provisions of this law, the political parties can act freely regardless of their quantity and seniority. They can nominate candidates to the organs of the state power and administration of the DRA. They can unite with other parties temporarily or permanently and can express their views openly on political, socio-economic and cultural issues according to law.

Under the provisions of this law, the political parties have the right to establish publication organs or can use the press according to the law of the DRA.

The law requires the political parties to observe the fundamental principles and regulations of the DRA and to refrain from threatening other political parties and their members.

President Ershad Returns Home From PRC Visit

BK071600 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Excerpts] President Ershad returned to Dhaka this afternoon after his 6-day state visit to China. Vice President Nurul Islam received the president at the airport. Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, deputy prime ministers, ministers, diplomats, chiefs of the Navy and Air Force, and high civil and military officials were also present to receive the president. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, China is to provide Bangladesh with a soft term credit for buying nine new ocean-going multipurpose cargo vessels at a concessional price from that country. *Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha* says an agreement to this effect followed discussions between President Ershad and the top Chinese leaders.

Iranian Official Meets Deputy Foreign Minister

LD070851 Tehran IRNA in English 0826 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA — Foreign Ministry director general for economic affairs, Mahmud Va'ezi, currently in Bangladesh heading a delegation, met with the Bangladesh deputy foreign minister in Dhaka Monday. Va'ezi who arrived in Dhaka Saturday emphasised Iran's interest in expanding bilateral cooperation with Bangladesh and also outlined Iran's stance on the seven-year-old Iraqi-imposed war. He also briefed the Bangladesh officials on Iran's righteous conditions for ending the war and establishment of a lasting peace in the region.

The Bangladeshi minister said that the forthcoming visit to his country of Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will be a positive step for Iran-Bangladesh friendly relations. He also hoped that the two countries would continue their cooperation in international matters.

Sikh 'Terrorists' Kill 36 Bus Passengers in Haryana

BK080330 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Terrorists gunned down 36 passengers and injured 30 others traveling in two different Haryana Roadways buses near Hissar in Haryana last night. The killings came barely 24 hours after the biggest ever massacre in Punjab at Lalru in Patiala District on Monday night.

According to an official spokesman, the terrorists moving in a Maruti jeep and a car stopped the Sirsa-bound bus on Daryapur Bridge 17 kms from Punjab border and 45 kms from Hissar. They dragged out and shot four passengers when the Delhi-bound bus came from the opposite direction. The terrorists then climbed into the second bus and killed 32 passengers. The remaining passengers of the Hissar-Sirsa bus ran toward the field when the terrorists fired on the second bus. Later, the killers escaped in two vehicles. The terrorists abandoned the vehicles, took a truck and escaped.

Police parties reached the spot and launched a massive manhunt to track the culprits. The Haryana police did not rule out the possibility of involvement of the same group which struck terror at Lalru.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, has left for the site of the killings. Before leaving he met senior officials and reviewed the situation in the state. He has appealed to the people to put up a united fight against the forces of terrorism. The border between Punjab and Haryana has been sealed. The Chandigarh administration has closed all the educational institutions in the union territory for today. A PTI report says Haryana Roadways Corporation has suspended all its night services till further orders.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has expressed shock and distress over the killings. He asked the chief minister of Haryana to take strong measures to protect the life and property of the people and maintain communal amity. Mr Buta Singh assured that the Center will extend all necessary assistance to maintain law and order in the state.

The union minister for environment and forests, Mr Bhajan Lal, has expressed deep shock over the latest killings. He rushed to the site of the killings last night.

The president of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Mr L.K. Advani, has appealed to the people to maintain peace and communal harmony. Condemning the killings he said, any retaliatory violence in any part of the country would only help the terrorists.

Several political parties and a number of social and religious organizations have given a call for bundh [strike] today in Punjab, Haryana, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh in protest against the killings of bus passengers over the last 2 days. Traders at a number of places in these areas kept their establishments closed yesterday also. Jammu is also observing bundh today. The BJP and Panther's Party, besides some local organizations, have given the call for the bundh.

In Punjab, police and paramilitary forces are carrying out raids on the suspected hideouts of terrorists all over the state to nab the culprits responsible for the Monday night massacre of bus passengers near Lalru. According to an official spokesman, about a dozen suspects were rounded up from Mohali near Chandigarh, during searches. The spokesman said two persons were shot dead last night in two separate incidents of terrorist activity in Sultanpurlodi in Kapurthala District and in Ajnala in Amritsar District.

Hindus, Police Clash in Delhi

BK080840 Hong Kong AFP in English
0819 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] New Delhi, July 7 (AFP) — Hundreds of Hindus broke through police cordons and clashed with Security Forces during a street demonstration here Wednesday to protest the slaughter of 72 Hindus by Sikh militants in Punjab, witnesses said. About 10 people were injured in stoning and baton charges as police battled to hold back the 2,000 slogan-chanting demonstrators waving black flags.

Mounted police repeatedly chased protesters who demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi over the massacre of 72 Hindus in three Sikh attacks on buses in Punjab and Haryana States Monday and Tuesday night.

The protest, near the house of Sikh Home Minister Buta Singh, turned violent when more than 600 youths ran amok, attacking some 100 security men with rocks.

The right-wing Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's Party, BJP) called the protest against the massacres and the government's failure to curb the five-year Sikh separatist campaign in Punjab — despite imposing direct federal rule there.

The protest ended as several hundred BJP activists voluntarily climbed into police buses and were ferried to police stations to be briefly detained. No one was formally arrested despite the violence, police said. Traffic was halted in the busy commercial heart of the capital for nearly three hours.

A BJP memorandum to be submitted to Mr. Gandhi said: "Your government has failed to curb the growing terrorism and to protect the life and property of the people. You must... resign immediately."

BJP leader Madan Lal Khurana, turned on by younger party workers for appealing for calm, called for the deployment of the army in the four border districts of Punjab, to control the militants.

The BJP, which is a pro-Hindu political party, announced a "total general strike" for Thursday in the Indian capital to express "anguish and sorrow" over the killings. "Everything will be shut tomorrow," BJP's Surinder Rathawal told *Agence France-Presse*. "Absolutely everything. We will not allow the government to run its transport network...."

Hindus Kill Sikh in Haryana

BK081328 Hong Kong AFP in English
1306 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] New Delhi, July 8 (AFP) — Hindu mobs went on a rampage killing a Sikh and injuring six others in a Haryana town Wednesday during protests over the slaughter of 72 hindus by Sikh separatists, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported. The mobs waylaid a 55-year-old Sikh at Yamunanagar, about 180 kilimetres (110 miles) north of here, and beat him to death, PTI said.

At least six more Sikhs were stoned and injured as the Hindu-dominated town observed a total strike to protest the killing of the 72 Hindus in three separate attacks on buses in Haryana and neighbouring Punjab late Monday and Tuesday nights. Half a dozen Sikh-owned shops were set ablaze during the rampage, the news agency added. The mobs defied the presence of Army troops and stoned a truck and a passenger bus, PTI said. A Sikh boy had acid thrown on his face.

The news agency quoted officials as saying that the situation was tense but had been brought under control. The authorities have banned the assembly of five or more people in Yamunanagar in a bid to prevent further violence.

Reportage on Visit of Norwegian Prime Minister

Welcomed by Gandhi 6 Jul

BK060930 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] The Norwegian prime minister was given a warm welcome on her arrival in the capital this morning. She was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; the external affairs minister, Mr Tiwari; the minister for environment, Mr Bhajan Lal; and others. A guard of honor was presented to the visiting dignitary.

Later, the Norwegian prime minister called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's residence]. The meeting lasted about 20 minutes. Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland said that her talks with the Indian leaders will help strengthen bilateral relations.

Delhi Reports Dinner Speeches

BK070348 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] The prime minister has said that India is determined to catch up with the new scientific revolution which is now sweeping the world. He said India has demonstrated its ability to absorb and adopt technology despite her limited financial and material resources. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking at a dinner hosted by him in honor of the Norwegian prime minister, Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, in New Delhi last night. He appreciated Norway's cooperation with India in rural projects, fisheries, education, and health.

Mr Gandhi said the most serious and pressing issue before the world today is that of disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament. India would urge a moratorium on all nuclear tests to facilitate the process of negotiations. The prime minister also lauded the active role played by Norway in securing international justice, notably in opposing apartheid.

In her speech, Mrs Brundtland said India and Norway could mutually cooperate in many fields of high technology. She said commercial relations between the two countries are now showing a promising potential. Referring to the bilateral agreement signed yesterday on technical, economic, and industrial cooperation, Mrs Brundtland hoped that it would broaden economic relationship in the future.

Earlier in the evening, the visiting Norwegian prime minister, Mrs Brundtland, called on Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Their meeting was followed by official level talks. International issues like disarmament and South Africa were discussed.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, explained to the Norwegian side India's efforts to improve relations with its neighbors, particularly Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Norwegian side was led by the state secretary, Mr (Tolstoyan Mouland).

USSR's Ryzhkov 'Welcomes' Persian Gulf Policy

LD081128 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Mr Naser Hayrani-Nobari, the Iranian ambassador in Moscow, yesterday submitted a written message from Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi to Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. According to a Central News Unit report, during the meeting between the Iranian ambassador and the chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, which lasted about 1 hour, Nikolay Ryzhkov said: The USSR is in favor of good-neighborly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and is planning to take some important steps toward this objective.

On the subject of the imposed war, our country's ambassador said: For the sake of stable peace in the world, the Saddam regime must be punished for its barbaric aggression. At present, the Iraqi regime is creating tension and trying to escalate the presence of U.S. imperialism in the Persian Gulf. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is standing firm and will powerfully respond to any act of aggression by U.S. imperialism against Iran's interests in the Persian Gulf.

Afterward, Mr Nikolay Ryzhkov said: The USSR welcomes the stances of the Islamic Republic in the Persian Gulf and believes in the necessity of joint cooperation and effort in this respect. During the course of this meeting, the two sides also expressed their views on important regional issues.

Musavi Warns France on Planned Arms Delivery

LD071143 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi warned here Tuesday that Iran will not remain silent about France's planned delivery of more French-made Super-Etandard fighter planes to Iraq. "The Islamic Republic will confront this measure by France," Musavi vowed.

Speaking at a seminar of ground forces commanders of the Armed Forces, he stressed that political, financial and international aid for the Baghdad regime as well as repeated visits of U.S. and Soviet delegations to Iraq were all indications of global arrogance's overall support for Iraqi Ba'thists.

Musavi said the Iraqi imposed war was one of the biggest arenas for the Islamic revolution to display its power and that victory in the war could jeopardise all interests of the superpowers in the region.

The prime minister asserted that the Islamic Republic of Iran was acting powerfully in the Middle East, the Islamic world, and international arena. "We have levers in our possession which we will use for the protection and safeguarding of the values of the Islamic revolution. This is not something we deny," he added.

The U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, efforts of international organisations and current deliberations of the Security Council as well as extensive attempts of some regional regimes were all to secure illegitimate interests of the superpowers and to confront the ideology of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The prime minister stressed that although interests of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf were not in harmony initially, however, for the first time, they reached an understanding to confine the Islamic revolution within its own boundaries.

He noted that the values adopted by the Islamic Republic do not permit it to remain indifferent towards international issues.

Premier Musavi said the Islamic revolution has been able to establish an exceptional foreign policy towards other countries, and that international arrogance's confession to this fact is a manifestation of the power of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

On the role of defence institutions in the Islamic Republic, the prime minister said that systems bent on domination and expansionism made use of their defence bodies to suppress other societies. In Third World countries, due to the subservience of the regimes to the superpowers, these forces are being used to preserve their powers and suppress their own people, Musavi said. Whereas, he stressed, in the Islamic Republic the defence forces exist to defend Islamic ideals and borders of the country.

The Islamic Republic was committed to realising its ideals the premier said, adding that no doubt imperialist powers whose interests had been disturbed by the Islamic Republic would not countenance them.

On various plots of international arrogance against the Islamic revolution, Musavi said that parallel to the escalation of crisis in the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic was faced with problems created for its diplomatic representative officials abroad such as in Britain, France and Spain.

He called on the officials to carefully watch plots of international arrogance against the Islamic revolution and act vigilantly.

He added that besides military aggression, a series of political and economic aggressions had been designed against the Islamic revolution.

Musavi referred to the drop of oil prices from 26 dollars to about 6 dollars last year which was the government's major problem since it inherited a dependent economy from the former regime.

But, he stressed, contrary to vicious propaganda that Iran would not be able to stand the hardship, the government not only tackled these difficulties but took great strides towards self-sufficiency and industrial independence in industries.

Kharrazi Speaks on Kurds, Chemical Arms, Gulf

LD071746 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA — Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Dr. Kamal Kharrazi told a news conference here today that the southern Iranian oil rich province of Khuzestan has been referred to as an independent country in Iraqi

schools while the Iraqi regime is calling for peace and return of warring troops to the international frontiers.

The WIH head showed reporters a map of Iran, recently found in a school in the liberated northern Iraqi town of Mawut, which had renamed Khuzestan Province the independent country of 'Arabia'. The map showed the sinister schemes of the Baghdad regime in its war against Iran, he said.

Kharrazi made it clear that the true nature of the Iraqi regime had not changed over the past few years, and that the Baghdad Government was still plotting to bring about the disintegration of Kordestan and Khuzestan Provinces of Iran.

Saddam Husayn's Ba'thist regime pretends to favor peace in order to save itself from its doomed fate, the WIH head said.

He said the strategy of the Islamic Republic in northern Iraq is to escalate popular movement of Iraqi Kurdish people against the Baghdad regime. "We believe the oppressed Iraqi Kurds should intensify their anti-government struggles in order to spread the war inside Iraqi territory."

Iraqi Muslim people should escalate their fight against the ruling Ba'thist regime in Baghdad either in northern, central or southern Iraq.

In response to a question as to the likelihood of Iranian reprisal measures against Iraqi chemical attacks, the WIH head described chemical arms as "inhuman weapons" saying that it was difficult for Iran to retaliate in such a way. "But," he noted, "we are ready to utilize our ability in this area at this very crucial juncture."

He described the liberation of the northern Iraqi town of Mawut as a "great military success" which served to cut the links of counterrevolutionary forces and to facilitate future operations of Iranian and Iraqi Kurdish forces.

Despite the full scale support of the U.S., the Soviet Union and the reactionary regional governments for Iraq, world governments are unable to ignore the fact that the Islamic Republic will gain final victory over Iraq, Kharrazi said. Baghdad's supporters are greatly frightened by the prospect of Iran's ultimate triumph over Iraq, he added.

On the future of the Iraqi-imposed war, Kharrazi said that the increased support of reactionaries and the superpowers' for Iraq as well as their extensive efforts to pressure Iran reflected the depth of their fear of an Iranian victory.

Kharrazi said that Iran's only option was to endeavor to win ultimate victory, which he said is not far away, or be intimidated by the threats of big powers and thus forget gaining victory.

On the Persian Gulf issue and the superpowers interference in the region, the WIH head said that some disagreements have been raised among U.S. officials over the situation in the Persian Gulf, while the Reagan administration is still grappling with McFarlane issue.

Washington and Moscow's interests in the Persian Gulf are so contradictory that they are prevented from making a move in the region, Kharrazi said, noting that any move by either of the superpowers would be interpreted as a hostile act against the other.

However, he said, there is no doubt that Iran's policy on the Persian Gulf cannot be reversed by (superpowers') reflagging of ships. "What is important to us is who assists the Iraqi regime as well as the cargo and destination of ships sailing in the Persian Gulf," he noted.

On the likelihood of the U.S. support for a Soviet proposal on withdrawal of all foreign fleets from the Persian Gulf, the WIH head said that Iran welcomed the proposal although the U.S. stance on the proposal was not clear.

Since the recent commotion in the Persian Gulf was propaganda fodder for the Americans, and despite their present 'vague' stance on the Soviet call, Kharrazi predicted that the U.S. would search for a way to escape from the region.

Foreign Ministry Protests to France on Gorji

LD071225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] In connection with the recent events in France and the attack on the home of Mr Vahid Gorji, an employee of the Iranian Embassy in Paris, the spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry has rejected the charges leveled at Mr Gorji and declared his noninvolvement in the cases attributed to him. The spokesman said:

The siege being laid to the Iranian Embassy staff is clearly in violation of Articles 25 and 26 of the Vienna Convention regarding diplomatic relations, which has been signed by the French Government. The articles clearly state that the host country is dutybound to place all facilities necessary for the operation of embassies at their disposal and to refrain from activities that may inhibit the freedom of movement of all mission staff.

Referring to the official remarks made by the French Government regarding the lack of diplomatic immunity by Mr Gorji, stressing item 2 of Article 37 of the Vienna Convention — which clearly states: Technical and clerical staff of the missions and their relatives enjoy the advantages and immunities included in Articles 29 to 35 of the convention — and stating that Mr Gorji is neither a French citizen nor a permanent resident of that country, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said: The attack on the home of Mr Gorji, the breaking of his front door, and the entry into his house are clear violations of item 1 of Article 30 of the convention. The arrest and detention of his wife and child are evidence of illegal actions by the French police and their disregard for the Vienna Convention, considering Article 29 of that convention.

He added: Mr Gorji, who is an employee of the Iranian Embassy in Paris, is not obliged to testify, in accordance with items 2 and 3 of Article 31 of the Vienna Convention, about

diplomatic relations. Any action taken against him is clearly in contravention of that convention.

Finally, he said: If these problems are not solved, the Iranian Foreign Ministry will exercise its right to implement the first part of item 2 of Article 47 of the Vienna Convention.

Reportage on GDR Chemical Industry Minister Visit

Welcomed by Shafe'i 5 Jul

NC050502 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Jul 87

[Text] GDR Chemical Industry Minister Wyschofsky arrived in Tehran this morning with an economic delegation to participate in a joint Iranian-GDR session. He was welcomed by our Industry Minister Shafe'i.

After his arrival, Mr Wyschofsky spoke with our correspondent about potential for bilateral cooperation, saying: The GDR can supply many of Iran's industrial needs and purchase products such as oil, iron ore and other minerals, and traditional goods from Iran in exchange.

Talks Held on Relations, Trade

LD051112 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 5 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Tehran, July 5, IRNA — Iran Sunday announced willingness to purchase intermediary materials needed by its industries from the Democratic Republic of Germany (East Germany) and in return sell oil and non-oil products to that country.

This issue was discussed in the first meeting of the joint commission for economic cooperation between Iran and the GDR attended by Iran's Industries Minister Gholam Reza Shafe'i and GDR Minister for Chemical Industry Guenther Wyschofsky. During the meeting the two sides while discussing their facilities and potentials, announced readiness to further expand mutual ties.

Referring to the volume of trade between the two countries, Wyschofsky called for its increase up to one billion dollars. He also announced his country's desire to purchase 500,000 to one million tons of Iranian crude oil.

Wyschofsky said that the GDR could cooperate with Iran in providing it with forage packing machinery, railway construction machinery, cement factory facilities, power generators, porcelain and glassware industries and also in the area of air transportation.

Meanwhile, Shafe'i said that Iran is willing to have relations with progressive, Third World and Muslim countries but, he stressed, unfortunately intermediary materials were not available in these countries. Therefore, he added, Democratic Republic of Germany due to its potential in chemical industries could play a significant role in its economic relations with Iran.

Referring to rich mine resources in Iran, the minister said that exploitation of these mines needed large investment, adding that the GDR by concluding buy-back contracts could play active and effective role in this connection. [passage omitted]

Meets With Musavi

LD051720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jul 87

[Text] Wyschofsky, the GDR chemical industries minister, met withPrime Minisitter Musavi, this afternoon. During the meeting, which was also attended by Shafe'i, our country's industries minister, and by the two countries' ambassadors, the prime minister referred to the disturbances resulting from U.S. incitements in the Persian Gulf and said: The Soviet proposal on the evacuation of foreign ships from the region and a halt on attacks on commercial ships is a constructive proposal.

Referring to the increase in the number of trips by U.S. delegations to Baghdad and the closeness of the Iraqi regime to America, the prime minister said: With the cooperation of some reactionary countries and her lackeys in the region and Iraq, America hatches plots and indulges in adventurism in the Persian Gulf. We have repeatedly declared that we stand firm in our policies.

He stressed: We have declared that the security of the Persian Gulf is the concern of the regional countries; no foreign power should interfere. In any case, our country is strong enough to confront any plot. We have proven that we do not compromise in such cases. Our method of approach is revolutionary. He added: We are natives of this region and are fully familiar with our own area. We can fight with all our might in our own region.

He said: While endorsing all efforts toward global disarmament, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the cost of building nuclear weapons would be better spent in the interests of the nations in order to establish tranquillity in the world. America's trouble-making should be dealt with decisively.

During the meeting, the GDR chemical industries minister referred to the importance of expanding relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and his country and submitted a report on ways to improve relations between the two countries.

Oil Purchase Discussed

LD061052 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Tehran, July 6, IRNA — Visiting German Democratic Republic (GDR) Minister of Chemical Industry Guenther Wyschofsky met with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Monday morning and discussed mutual economic relations and an agreement for purchase of Iranian oil.

Referring to visit of Premier Hoseyn Musavi of Iran to GDR last fall the oil minister described the measures taken for expansion of mutual relations as "positive" and "fruitful". Aqazadeh also called for further evaluation of possibilities for mutual cooperation in the field of petrochemical and chemical industries.

During the meeting it was decided that teams of experts of both countries would hold talks on GDR purchase of oil from Iran. [passage omitted]

Economic Letter of Understanding

LD061903 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Tehran, July 6, IRNA — An economic letter of understanding was inked here Monday between Iranian Minister of Industries Gholam Reza Shafe'i and visiting Chemical Industry Minister of German Democratic Republic (GDR) Guenther Wyschofsky.

The letter of understanding signed at the end of the Iran-GDR joint economic commission calls for dls. 150m in economic exchanges for each side. Germany will import Iranian non-oil goods as much as 25 to 30 percent of its export to Iran. [sentenced as received] They (non-oil goods) will comprise mostly foodstuff, concentrated lead, textile, cast iron and chrome ores.

The East German minister announced his country's preparedness to study an Iranian request for raw materials for Iran's industries, especially chemicals, all kinds of metals and plastic.

According to the letter of understanding, Iran will export 500,000 tons of oil to the GDR, which can be upped to one million tons. [passage omitted]

Calls Talks 'Fruitful'

LD070846 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA — The German Democratic Republic Minister of Chemical Industry Guenther Wyschofsky left Tehran Tuesday morning after talks with Iranian officials and signing of an economic protocol.

Wyschofsky who arrived in Tehran Saturday heading a delegation described his visit as "successful" and his talks with Iranian authorities as "fruitful". In these talks, he said, trade relations, exchange of technology and also international issues were raised.

Prosecutor General Comments on Hajj Week

LD021456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 2 Jul 87

[Speech by Prosecutor General Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Kho'ini on the occasion of Hajj week; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Whenever we have an opportunity to speak about the Hajj, we should emphasize its political dimension. We should produce proof from Koranic verses and religious traditions because there may be some people, even among ourselves, who are still not certain about this issue. There may even be a number of clergymen who do not yet understand this matter properly. We should not waste any opportunity abroad or even inside the country to talk about the political dimension of the Hajj.

We are celebrating the Hajj when the world of Islam is faced with many problems and difficulties. Wherever you go in the Islamic world, whether among nations or among governments, there is talk of political issues or the world of Islam. The main question asked is: How is it that governments and some of the individuals deceived by those governments in the Imam's interpretation -- very stupid or very cunning akhunds [a pejorative term to describe a Muslim clergyman] or according to another interpretation, where the imam says: These court akhunds are even more cunning and more disgraceful than the satanic people -- how is it that it is regarded as permissible for Muslims, wherever 2 or 10 or a few hundred of them get together anywhere in the world — except in the two holy shrines, the House of God — they can talk about the political issues of the world of Islam but cannot utter a word about the political issues of the world of Islam in the House of God, in the holy shrine, in the great gathering of Muslims from all over the world of Islam?

How is it that it is forbidden to raise these issues there? Why is it blasphemous to raise these issues there? Of course, they are blasphemous in the eyes of these blasphemous governments; they are blasphemous in the eyes of the akhunds, who will inhabit hell with similar akhunds; they are blasphemous in the eyes of the amir of Kuwait, this shaykh who has placed upon his shoulders the most shameful political issue in the history of this region.

Why is it that anywhere outside Mecca and Medina one can ask if the Kuwaiti action is a service to an Islamic land or whether it is treachery? One can ask this in Kuwait itself, but one cannot study this issue in the holy mosque, in the home, and sanctuary of the world's Muslims.

I am not saying that the Muslims should gather there and say that the amir of Kuwait has committed an act of treason against Islam. No, this is not what I am saying. However, the Saudi Arabian Government should agree that during the Hajj this year the Muslims may hold a seminar in the Holy Mosque and raise the issue of whether or not the action of the amir of Kuwait was a service to the world of Islam. We are not saying that the Muslims should announce that it was treason. No, let them investigate and say whether it was a service or treason. If all the Muslims who gather there say that it was a service, would it not be better for the amir of Kuwait? Would it not be better for the Saudi Government, which deceived the amir of Kuwait, led him astray, threw him into this bottomless pit, and is now sitting ringside?

The Saudi Government also wants to say that its ships should sail under the shadow and cover of America in the Persian Gulf, but at the moment it does not dare to say this openly. He also had concocted a title for himself: the custodian of the two holy mosques. However, such titles sometimes give rise to many problems for a person. It would be difficult for him to claim that he is both the custodian of the two holy mosques and also go under American cover. However, he is sitting and watching to see what happens to the amir of Kuwait. Would it not be better for the Saudi Government and the Saudi king to issue permission that during the Hajj this year a gathering or a seminar may be held

by the Imam's mission [Be'tha al-Imam, the office in charge of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca], by the Islamic Republic, or by the representative of the Imam, with the participation of all those who have gone on the Hajj pilgrimage? The Islamic Republic does not wish to be selective and to gather only a certain number of people who might support the views of the Islamic Republic.

The Muslims who have gone to Mecca and who are making a pilgrimage to the House of God, let them come together and allow the Imam's mission and the representative of the Imam to raise this issue, whether the action of the amir of Kuwait — who begs the anti-Islamic and anti-God powers, the Soviet Union and America, to place their shadow upon him and to place their flags upon his tankers so that they can transport his oil — whether the Muslims regard this action by the amir of Kuwait as a service to the world of Islam. In that case, Saudi Arabia may also follow suit. If the Muslims regard it as treason, let them issue their fatwa [religious verdict] about the amir of Kuwait. What could be wrong with such an action? When I speak of a seminar, I mean that on 1 night during the 10 holy days the representative of the Imam will announce in the Holy Mosque.... [sentence left incomplete]

All that we ask is that the Saudi Government not oppose it and not send its guards to the Holy Mosque. Let us see what happens. We will try it for 1 year. Let us ask the people whether the actions undertaken by those governments regarding the destiny of Islamic countries — whether giving permission to America by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and some other shaykhs in the south of the Gulf, whether with flags or without flags — are good or not. If the Muslims say that those actions are good, then the Islamic Republic will take back its words. However, if those nations and Muslims say that those actions are treason, either those governments should change their ways or they should leave office.

Let the Saudi Government answer whether its policies and the methods it has adopted in the foreign policy of the Islamic country of Arabia [as heard] are in accordance with the wishes of the Muslim nation of Arabia, or whether they are contrary to its wishes. If its policies are in accordance with the wishes of the people, then let that government allow the Muslim people who have gathered there from Mecca and Medina and other places in Arabia to demonstrate for 1 day in the streets and express their views. Let the Arabian people announce that they support the foreign policy of Arabia, which is based on submitting to the extortion of powers opposed to God. Let them explain what they doing. Let them tell the Muslims who have come from Kuwait what the amir of Kuwait has done. If the Kuwaiti Muslims reject them, then the Kuwaiti rulers should change their policies.

If the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic find it beneficial for the achievement of the goals of the Hajj pilgrimage as prescribed by God, then we will reach a point when we will reveal the treasons of the Islamic governments and put them to public vote. We will not allow a mere march or demonstration to suffice. If this referendum is carried out during the Hajj and if a verdict is issued on the Kuwaiti Government, this would be a manifest benefit. [last two words in Arabic] If the Kuwaiti Government had rendered a service to the world of Islam and its actions were condoned by Muslim nations, the Kuwaiti Government would not have even dreamed of such a gathering. On the other hand, if the Kuwaiti Government has committed treason and is condemned and should be punished for this treason, I believe that even before the pilgrims return from Arabia they will witness this wonderful benefit to the world of Islam -- namely, the punishment of the amir of Kuwait.

The imam says that the Hajj should be a crushing Hajj, a Hajj which condemns the superpowers, which condemns the Soviet Union and America. We should have such a Hajj, otherwise it is not Hajj. During Hajj, Muslims should find unity of expression and should decide on the problems of the world of Islam and should decide about the fate of these governments. We hope, and we are very optimistic about this hope, that the day will come when governments will shake because of the Hajj. Governments which act treacherously toward the nations during the year should know that at the end of the year the Hajj will be held, and that during the Hajj, Muslims will make the necessary decisions about these treacherous governments.

Why is Saudi Arabia afraid of the Islamic Republic raising the issue of the Iraq-Iran war and putting it to a vote? Why is it afraid of Iran explaining in the Holy Mosque how the war started, who started the war, and what crimes were committed by Iraq?

If Muslim nations say that the Islamic Republic should give up the war, we will submit to their views. We will say nothing against the views of the Muslims and we will accept their verdict if the Muslims say that the Islamic Republic should stop the war. However, if Muslims say that Iraq is the aggressor, and in accordance with the teachings of Islam, Muslims are dutybound to fight against Iraq and topple the infidel Ba'thist Party of Iraq, it would be one of the evident benefits of the Hajj.

IRGC To Begin Conscription; Deserters To Be Held

LD061845 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 6 Jul 87

[Text] The plan for detaining all deserters and those eligible for the draft who have not shown up for service and all those who are absent without leave [AWOL] will be extensively implemented in Tehran and all others parts of the country as a result of the cooperation between the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the law enforcement agencies of the country.

The personnel officer for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said in an interview with our correspondent: As a result of the approval of the new draft bill -- which has received unprecedented approval by the brave youth of the country who cannot wait to perform their holy duties under the flag and who wish to enjoy the benefits offered for their services -- the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, on the basis of its legal responsibilities has started conscription. Currently, a large number of those eligible for service, along with the official personnel of the Guards Corps, are wearing the holy uniform of a Guards Corps draftee and are serving Islam and Islamic Iran.

He added: Considering the bill approved by Majlis dealing with the arrest of the deserters and all AWOL personnel, as well all employers who hire such individuals, and the legal duty of the

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in this respect, this plan will be widely carried out starting today in order to further implement justice, remove any prejudice, and use the joint cooperation of the law enforcement agencies of the country with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

He further added: In order to achieve this goal, a headquarters has been set up in the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps to absorb eligible draftees, as well as those categories mentioned above. The hezbollah and martyr-nurturing ummah, in order to implement justice and remove any prejudice, can identify all absentees and AWOL personnel and those who attempt to employ them, and notify the Central Guards Corps Headquarters or any corps offices and bases through telephone, letters, or in person. The Guards Corps official went on to note the punishments outlined in the law for such absentees and invited all such individuals to go to draft centers before any legal measures are taken against them at a time when hundreds of thousands of brave and capable youth of Islamic Iran are going to the fronts voluntarily. He also noted that all males across the country who are currently eligible for draft must carry a certificate attesting to having ended their service or that they are not eligible for service.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Iraqi Aircraft Bomb Village

LD071817 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., July 7, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed "Shalmash" village of Sardasht at 13:30 hours local time (10:00 GMT) Monday. Some damage was inflicted on residential quarters and farmlands and one person was injured in the bombing.

Communique No 2,890

LD071618 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 7 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 7, IRNA — Iran's naval forces checked all Iraqi movements in Khawr 'Abdallah waterway and Al-Bakr and Al-'Amyah platforms in addition to intercepting and searching two foreign vessels in the Strait of Hormuz Monday. The vessels were allowed to continue voyage when no Iraq-bound cargo was found on board.

Reporting the above in its 2890th communique here today, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces added that heavy Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi infantry and armoured units in the western fronts silenced enemy fire setting ablaze two munitions dumps, a tank and several light and heavy vehicles. A considerable number of enemy troops were also killed or wounded in the region, it added.

Artillery fire of Iranian Gendarmerie forces on Iraqi perimeters in the southern operational theaters destroyed several light vehicles, gun emplacements and watch posts killing a number of enemy soldiers.

Parts of Iraqi artillery and heavy gun emplacements were set afire when enemy positions and strongholds in the northwestern fronts came under long-range artillery fire of the Muslim forces Monday. Heavy artillery fire of Iranian combatants also inflicted casualties and losses on enemy troops in Hajj 'Umran and Sardasht region of western fronts, said the communique.

Prime Minister Confirms Skirmishes With India
OW080531 Tokyo KYODO in English
0519 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Rawalpindi, July 8 *Kyodo* — Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has offered to allow India to inspect the controversial Kahuta uranium enrichment plant near Rawalpindi in exchange for a similar inspection by Pakistan of an Indian nuclear installation.

"We will go to the extent India does," Junejo told *Kyodo* news service in an exclusive interview Tuesday, when asked if Pakistan would agree to the inspection of the Kahuta plant where India suspects it of building nuclear weapons.

He said the question of nuclear nonproliferation has been discussed on different occasions by Pakistan and India with Pakistan offering to open all its nuclear facilities "without reservation," if India allows the same. "We will do what India does," he said, recalling the set of six proposals to India to contain proliferation. These proposals include simultaneous signing of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and declaring South Asia a nuclear weapon-free zone. Prime Minister Junejo offered the 30-minute interview with *Kyodo* before his official visit to Japan July 12-16.

Asked to comment on reports of fresh clashes between Pakistani and Indian troops in the disputed Siachin Glacier area, the prime minister conceded that there have been some skirmishes in the area but there was nothing substantial to report. He added that Pakistan will not allow India to move beyond the line it presently occupies in the disputed territory. "The fact that India is occupying a territory does not mean that the area belongs to it," Junejo said.

On the domestic front, the prime minister disclosed his government has agreed in principle to hold local elections scheduled for October on a non-party basis, but a formal decision must still be made by the ruling Pakistan Muslim League that he heads.

When asked if he would advise President Gen Ziaul Haq to give up the post of Army chief, Junejo said "It is up to the president to decide if he wants to continue as Army chief. But Junejo said that Ziaul is keeping the office of the chief of Army Staff under Pakistan's Constitution. Junejo said, however, the Constitution places supreme authority in the parliament and not the president.

Junejo also said he favored an international conference on Afghanistan as proposed by Iran to be attended by all parties involved in the conflict. "It is a very good idea; if any talks among various Afghan leaders take place, then Pakistan will be happy," he said. The prime minister, however, denied any contact between the Pakistani Government and former Afghan King Zahir Shah. "We are not mediating in the Afghan conflict and it is up to the Afghan people and the king to contact each other," he said.

Concerning the prospects of a peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue under the aegis of the UN mediator Diego Cordovez, Junejo said great progress has been made in the eight rounds of indirect talks in Geneva and the simple fact that the Soviet Union has publicly declared it wants to withdraw from Afghanistan augurs well for a political settlement of the issue.

Junejo said he hopes his forthcoming visit to Japan will further strengthen ties between the two countries. He described Japan as a great friend which is the second biggest foreign assistance donor with which total trade turnover exceeded 1 billion dollars. He called, however, for correcting the trade imbalance and said Japanese investment in Pakistan should be increased. Junejo said representatives of private sector will accompany him to Japan to explore the possibility of joint ventures with their Japanese counterparts.

Iranian Refugees Attacked in Karachi, Quetta
BK081252 Hong Kong AFP in English
1247 GMT 8 Jul 87

[Text] Islamabad, July 8 (AFP) — Three Iranian refugees were killed and 18 wounded early Wednesday in the southern Pakistan cities of Quetta and Karachi, police said, during simultaneous attacks which refugees blamed on pro-Tehran forces. The areas attacked in both cities were cordoned off immediately after the attack and ensuing exchange of fire.

In Karachi, two people died and five were wounded when five houses used by Iranian refugees were attacked in the southern districts. Some "two dozen" Iranians were arrested, police said. One of houses [as received] was destroyed and the other four badly damaged, police said, adding that they had seized mortars, automatic guns and Kalashnikov automatic rifles, but refusing to say whether any one had been arrested.

A spokesman for the pro-Teheran Student Union in Karachi said the refugees were members of the opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq "paid by Iraq and Israel," but did not claim responsibility for the attack. Both attacks occurred shortly after 4:00 A.M. (2300 GMT Tuesday) and lasted for about 90 minutes, witnesses said.

In Quetta, one Iranian refugee was killed and 11 wounded, police said. Hospital sources said two Pakistanis also were wounded. Seven houses were attacked in Quetta, capital of southwestern Pakistani province of Baluchistan, where Iranian dissidents said the attackers were followers of Iran's spiritual leader, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni. Refugees fired back and the shooting could be heard in parts of Quetta, correspondents said, adding that people watched the shooting from rooftops.

Iranian refugees, which include young men who want to avoid being sent to fight in the war with Iraq, stop over in Quetta on their way to Karachi and exile abroad. Around 10,000 refugees live in Karachi, according to unofficial estimates.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq who oppose the Tehran regime have an office in Karachi, which Iran has often asked Pakistan to close.

Official Admits Tribesmen Moving to Afghanistan

BK071441 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
26 Jun 87 p 8

[Excerpt] Quetta, June 25: The Baluchistan Governor General (Retd) Mohammad Musa has categorically denied the existence of any U.S. Bases in his province and has dubbed allegations to this effect as politically motivated.

Answering questions during his meeting with an 11-member delegation of NWFP journalists which met him under the leadership of Rahimullah Yousafzai of *The Muslim*, he maintained that no area or place in Baluchistan, including the Mekran Coast, was out of bounds for any body. He pointed out that such baseless claims have been repeatedly made despite official denials.

The Governor felt the Soviet Union had definite long term interests in Baluchistan where it needed a base on the Arabian Sea Coast to monitor the oil bearing Persian Gulf littoral states. He said the Soviets were capable and willing to employ every means, including military, to achieve its geopolitical interests in Baluchistan. He was worried that Baluchistan, having 350 miles of sea coast every yard of which was strategically important was a tempting prize for aggressors and its 1.34 lakh square miles area was too large to be physically guarded.

Governor Musa, forthright and precise in his comments, admitted that some Marri tribesmen have been migrating to Afghanistan recently but he wondered as to what would they do in that war torn country. He however conceded that the government had not been able to stop them from migrating. He described the migration as only trickle and politically inspired.

The 79-year old former General looking fit and energetic, abhorred the tendency to dub political opponents as traitors and said no one was a triator or a true patriot until proved so by one's deeds. He felt opposition had a vital role to perform in a democratic polity. He appealed to all Pakistanis, politicians included, to work primarily for the country's interests rather than for petty political motives.

The Governor told a questioner that Baluchistan was indebted to the federal government for picking up its budgetary deficits and meeting its other demands. He felt Baluchistan had great potential and a determined effort could enable it to live up to its promise as the future California of Pakistan.

In reply to another question, the Governor expressed his ignorance of any Iranian plans to close its borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan to control narcotics smuggling adding that the problem did not seem serious enough to warrant such an action. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leader Concerned With Crist's Visits

BK071356 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
27 Jun 87 p 6

[Text] Multan, June 26 — Syed Mohammad Kaswar Gardezi, secretary general, Pakistan National Party, has said that the ruling class is playing with the integrity, solidarity and stability of Pakistan by serving as a "lackey" of United States. In a press statement issued here recently Mr Gardezi expressed his concern and apprehensions on "frequent visits" to Pakistan of General Crist, commander of the central American command and his inspection of Pakistan's defence installations and U.S. warhsips in the sensitive coastal areas of Pakistan.

Kaswar Gardezi claimed that the United States was pressing Pakistan to delay Geneva talks by not accepting the peace overtures of Soviet Union. Mr Gardezi said he was optimistic that the politically awakened Pakistanis would not allow anyone to play with the destiny of the country. He was also optimistic about the outcome of the proposed all-party conference to be organised by JUI [Jamiat Ulema-e Islami]. "The conference will surely succeed", he said. He declared that confederationists and those who supported Ziaul would not be invited to the RTC [Round Table Conference].

Opposition Opposes Extending State of Emergency

BK071643 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
26 Jun 87 p 1

[By Christine Jayasinghe]

[Excerpts] The House, Thursday: For the first time today the SLFP and the MEP [People's United Front] cast their opposing votes with the lone CP member when the count was taken at the end of the debate extending the emergency.

Making much of the action's significance, the members of the two opposition parties (the CP has been consistently saying "nay") staged a dramatic entrance en masse into the chamber, after having first walked out in protest at some comments from the Speaker. [passage omitted]

The count was made, with all 11 opposition MPs rising chests puffed out bravely when the 107 government siders had sat down after a particularly noisy session that had the government and opposition engaged in several brief but vigorous battles. [passage omitted]

The gist of the SLFP's argument, led by Akmeemana's Richard Pathirana, was that the emergency was being turned on opposition in the south rather than to quell terrorism in the north. The cry for a general election was sounded more often than once, although the subject of the mini polls boycott was but infrequently touched upon.

Opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike complained that all his party's good intentions had been frustrated by the government. One such was its rejection of a joint resolution condemning the Indian air-drop. If it continued, the SLFP had no option but to vote against the emergency, he said. [passage omitted]

Calls For General Elections

BK071659 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
26 Jun 87 pp 1, 12

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] SLFP MPs will boycott ordinary sittings of parliament beginning next month, as part of a joint opposition agitation campaign to press for general elections, party leader Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike said yesterday. She said five opposition parties agreed with them to boycott parliament and the forthcoming local government and Pradeshiya Sabha elections and join in a campaign to agitate for a general election.

"We have unanimously decided to boycott all elections that are being held from now onward till we succeed in getting a general election," Mrs. Bandaranaike said. The SLFP was confident of winning some of the municipality councils, but they were concerned about "bigger issues" and will fight for a general election to "safeguard the democratic rights of the people."

She warned SLFP members against contesting the local government elections as independent candidates. "If our members contest the elections while retaining party membership, we will sack them," she said.

In a joint statement, the general secretaries of the SLFP, CP, SLMP [Sri Lanka Mahajana Party], MEP [People's United Front], NSSP [New Equal Society Party] and the DWC [Democratic Worker's Congress] accused the government of preparing to hold local government elections as a subterfuge, to deny or otherwise undermine the basic right of the people to elect a government of their choice. "If the conditions now prevailing in the country are so conducive to the holding of local government elections across the country, we see no reason why general elections could not be held now" the statement said.

Mrs. Bandaranaike told reporters that they had not yet decided how they were going to carry out their campaign, but said it would be democratic and non-violent.

Asked whether the SLFP MPs will resign their seats in protest, she said they were keeping the option open, although they had no immediate plans to quit parliament. "Our only forum now is parliament. It would be unwise to quit at this stage. Although we will boycott parliament, our members will attend sittings when the emergency and other important issues are discussed," she said.

The party was satisfied that the government was using emergency powers to suppress the people in the south. In future the opposition would vote against the extension of the emergency, she said. Earlier the SLFP either abstained or voted with the government to extend the state of emergency when it came up in parliament each month for renewal.

"When we asked for a general election, President Jayewardene said he cannot have an election with terrorism in the country... under this regime terrorism will never be wiped out....

"Now that they are having local government elections (if they can) and by-elections in the north and the east, that means the situation in the country has returned to normal.

"Then, there is no need to extend the emergency and we shall vote against it. The Prevention of Terrorism Act alone is enough to deal with the terrorist," she said.

She argues that the government's by-election announcement was made for the benefit of the current Aid Group meeting in Paris in the context of mounting international pressure to negotiate an early settlement of the island's Tamil problem. "The government is trying to bluff and hoodwink the public. What President Jayewardene is really trying to do is to have a referendum... we know what happened in 1982....

"How can the government have by-elections in the north, especially in Jaffna? The government has admitted that Jaffna is under the LTTE," she said.

Civilian Massacre at Batticaloa 'Disproved'

BK071255 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1110 GMT 7 Jul 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 07 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Prompt action by National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has resulted in the speedy and effective nailing on the head of a terrorist disinformation canard planted in the Indian Press yesterday, official sources told *Lanka Puwath* today.

Following the Indian High Commission in Colombo bringing to the notice of the Sri Lankan Ministry of Defence, the alleged massacre of 17 civilians and 30 others who were allegedly burned to death and buried by the Special Task Force commandos at Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka, the Minister of National Security Lalith Athulathmudali promptly appointed a team of investigators comprising, director operations, Sri Lanka Army, a senior officer of the Joint Operations Command, a senior officer of the Special Task Force (STF) and the defence attache of the Indian High Commission, B.K. Gupta, official sources told *Lanka Puwath* today.

The team of investigators flew to Batticaloa by special aircraft and met members of the citizens committee who categorically and repeatedly denied the reports appearing in the Indian press. They had told the investigators that they had heard of some killings but denied having any proof of them.

The Indian press reports had carried (?dispatches), one of which quoted "reliable sources close to citizens committee".

The investigators next helicoptered to the former terrorist hideout which had been raided by the STF at 0630 hours (local time) on July 7 at Kalimudi where 5 terrorists were killed and a large quantity of arms, ammunition, and terrorist logistics were captured. The team of investigators met three to four families living in the area.

The destroyed hideout was situated about one and a half miles distance from the Pillayar Temple. The investigators led by Brigadier Jayantha Jayaratne, director operations of the Sri Lanka Army met a cross section of people at the Kovil and all of them including the Poosari (head priest) [words indistinct] to the fact that there had been no killings in the vicinity fo the temple.

Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the prompt action taken by the Sri Lankan minister of national security had exposed the activities and disproved the allegations of a well established and orchestrated terrorist disinformation campaign.

The Indian press report had been an obvious attempt to make the killing of five terrorists during the raid on the LTTE base at Kalimudi as a basis for a destructive propaganda campaign against Sri Lanka.

LTTE Leaders Return to Jaffna; Low on Weapons

BK071651 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 24 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] The LTTE leaders including Prabhakaran are now in Jaffna, back from Tamil Nadu where they were in hiding during "Operation Liberation", intelligence reports say. These reports say that the LTTE has been pushing hard for arms and ammunition to replace losses suffered in Vadamarachchi. With much of peninsula's coast out of their control, running arms and men has become more difficult.

The reports said that Prabhakaran, Kittu, Mahattaya and Rahim who are now in Jaffna have ordered that ammunition be sparingly used in the light of stocks running out.

Monday's STF [Security Task Force] success at Batticaloa where the LTTE lost their provincial leader, Regan, was one of the biggest reverses the Tigers have recently suffered in the East. One of the weapons recovered following this raid where the LTTE lost four key men was a service revolver taken off a sub-inspector killed in a landmine in Batticaloa two years ago.